

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERNON, UCC

December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**PRELUDE** "Irby" Farlee  
"Sussex Carol" Miller  
"Regent Square" Johnson  
"The Rose Carol, Good King arr. Lorenz  
Wenceslas, Hark! The Herald"

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL to WORSHIP** (*responsive*) Kate Fowler

Leader: God's love comes alive in the form of a child,

**People: Holy love, warm and tender among us.**

Leader: The light of the world is born into darkness,

**People: In the city of David and in each of us.**

Leader: It's coming soon! It's almost here!

**People: Emmanuel, God with us.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** #159 "There's a Song in the Air"

**ADVENT WREATH**

**The Candle of Love** (*from John 8:12*)

Reader 1: "Again Jesus spoke to them saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'"

Reader 2: In lighting this candle, we celebrate the miracle of Love, and we ponder the wonder and mystery of God's great love for us, as revealed in the life of Jesus Christ. Lighting this candle today, we rekindle an ancient flame, and recognize a love that will burn through all eternity.

*Lighting the Candle of Love (in silence)*

**Prayer** (*unison*)

**Holy God, we stand in awe of your unfailing love for us and we thank you for the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Grant that we might reflect your great love in our words and deeds. Amen.**

**Hymn** #132 "When God Is a Child" (*vs. 4 only*)

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**TIME with the CHILDREN**

**The LORD'S PRAYER** (*unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "Silent Night" arr. Wagner

**SCRIPTURE** John 1:1-5  
Luke 2:8-14  
Isaiah 9:2

**SERMON** Rev. Meg Watson

**\*HYMN** #153 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (*vs. 1-3*)

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

**MORNING PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**CALL to OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "O Wonder Amazing" T. Fettke

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER of DEDICATION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Handel

*\*All who are able are invited to stand.*

**Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Fellowship Hall.**

**In Our Ongoing Prayers . . .**

**Jim Montlick and family** on the loss of his wife Lois; **Karen Rowell; Gail Brewer**, Geraldine Strong's sister; David and Elizabeth Hollister, Candace Buswell's parents; Joel Covington; Jack Allen; Bobby Dwire; Bruce and Sandy Blair; Warren Little; Frederick Burgess; Tom Fitzgerald; Melinda Singh; Joyce Smith; Becky Burr; Bess Howe; Paul Westerberg; Michelle Darby; people struggling with mental illness; State Trooper Christopher Melanson; Debbie Chase; Pat Lazeren; Sharon Lacey; Ed Rockland, Bettye Kramer's brother-in-law; Maggie and David Minnick; Mike Swan; the people of Syria, including the family of Tarek Eid; Heidi Howie; Steve Bright; Pat Melville; Philip Bogard; Wendy Parker; Rachel Andrews; Christa Hockenberry; Cindy Madden; Jan Peacock; Julie Wrona; Carol Shea; Bobby Kelley; Susan Shimer; Nancy Bailey; Lillian Burnett; Will Fisher and Jessica Surratt; E.G. and Donna Harvin; Adeline McGee; Chantelle Fuller; Kim Burnham; Betty Worden; Mason Bower; Debbie Marshall; Jeanine Uthgenannt; Michael Turner; Candy Buswell; Donna Peacock; Deborah Costello; Richard Brooke; Ray Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Thelma Gifford; Cooper Doyle; Horst Pohlmann; John Kaminski

*New additions in bold print*

## WELCOME to FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of VERNON!

We are glad you are here. It is our hope that you will encounter God here, experience the love God showed the world in Jesus, and be inspired to share that love with the world. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by our Welcome Table. There you will find a guestbook to sign and a welcome gift to take home with you. Let us know if we can be of service to you in any way, and come back again soon.

**Bell Choir Members:** Leanne Connolly, Dave Bower, Michelle Bower, Jane Burr, Kate Fowler, Margaret Klukas, Althea Madigan, Stacy Melanson, Joanne Myer, Laurie Sullivan, Sally Sullivan

**Greeters and Coffee Hour:** Furnishings & Memorials, Library and Memorial Garden Committees

### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**Memorial Garden:** 11:15 AM, Library

**Board of Music:** 11:45 AM, PF Room

### TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR downstairs in Fellowship Hall

**Cookie Sale:** Just in time for Christmas, for just \$5, fill a bag with cookies. Sponsored by Women's Fellowship.

**FCCV Mugs** are now available for only \$10 each! Check them out at the Scrip-Your-All table! Just in time for those last minute Christmas gifts!

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

**Please Note:** Tuesday morning **Bible Study** and Thursday evening **Theology on Tap** are taking a break. We will not meet again until the week of January 5.

**Men's Group:** Tuesday, December 23, 6:30 AM, Vernon Diner

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Pageant – 5:30 PM**

**Candlelight – 11 PM**

Our **Christmas Pageant** will be held at 5:30 PM on Christmas Eve and every child who attends can take part. Please arrive by 5:15 PM so we can help your child get dressed as a shepherd or angel. The Confirmands will also be participating in this service.

**Giving Campaign Update:** We are coming to the end of our Giving Campaign. If you have not already returned your Giving Card, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible so that we may include your commitment in the planning of our 2015 budget. If you are in need of a Giving Packet, stop by the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour or email Kate Fowler (kfowler64@yahoo.com).

**Boards and Committees Please Note:** If you are planning an event and would like to have it "advertised" please send all pertinent information (name of event, date, time and place, board/committee sponsoring it and contact phone number) to the Communications Committee (jhwilson36@comcast.net) keeping in mind that a two-week advance notice is required to have these items published in local papers.

**Scrip-Your-All Update:** There is a correction to last week's listing of Big Y's earning percent. The percentage was incorrectly listed as 0%. In fact, Big Y earns 6% for FCCV (Stop & Shop - 4%, Price Chopper - 5%). After a few great weeks of sales, we are now about \$150 away from \$7,000 in earnings for 2015. There is still time to pick up cards for Christmas gifts and Christmas grocery shopping! We can also print (or email a PDF copy) of cards for over 200 other retailers, ensuring you receive the gift cards in time for Christmas giving. **Thank you** to everyone who has participated and continues to participate in the Scrip-Your-All program!

**Needed!** Two people to serve on the Auditing Committee beginning in January. Anyone interested should contact Tony Muro, 872-1757.

A **Crib Room** is available upstairs near the balcony for **parents with infants up to 12 months of age** where the worship service can be heard via intercom. Anyone with concerns about the Crib Room should contact Sally Sullivan, 871-1473. A staffed **Toddler Room**, located downstairs in the Kellogg wing, is open for **children 12 months to 3 years old**.

**Reminder:** FCCV records its Sunday worship services. These services are available for viewing on a one-week delay on Comcast Community Voice Channel 5, Sunday mornings at 10 AM and Monday evenings at 6 PM. **FCCV events airing this week...** Rev. Robin Bird's Installation - December 22 at 10 AM; Les Childs Scholarship Variety Show - December 24, 12 PM. Full length DVDs of the services are also available for borrowing in the Library.

The **Care Network** is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, contact Jan Muro at jmoze@hotmail.com or 872-1757 or Sue Pilkons at 860-875-4122.

**Name Tags:** If you ordered a name tag it is available for pick-up at the Scrip-Your-All table during Coffee Hour. If you need a name tag you can order it any Sunday during Coffee Hour or contact Jim Montlick (jamontlik@aol.com). You can choose a pin, magnet or clip. A donation of \$3-\$5 is suggested.

**Cancellation of Church Services or Activities Due to Inclement Weather:** Please watch WFSB Channel 3 or go to wfsb.com.

**Acolytes Needed!** To all parents of Sunday School children...if your child would like to be an acolyte, please contact Delythe Kracke at DelytheK@yahoo.com or (860) 872-3004.