



November 28, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Jed Rardin

Interim Minister: Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo

Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau

Music Director: Sue Berlenbach

Memorial Bells Choir Director: Carlene Ruesenberg

Director of Christian Education: Alison Nyhan

27 Pleasant Street * Concord, NH * 224-2521 * www.southchurchconcord.org

Welcome to South Church! Whoever you are, whatever your faith tradition, whatever creed you profess, whatever your age, ability, race, sexual orientation or gender expression, you are welcome here!

WE GATHER...

WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. H. Livingston, Jr.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

What will set us journeying in search of the Christ this Advent? How far are we prepared to go out of our way to look for the signs of His coming, and to prepare a path?

How will we travel through this season? Will we be burdened by responsibilities and tasks, loaded with others' expectations, overwhelmed by their needs? Will we be full of joy or weary of grief?

What will guide our steps in these weeks? Will we follow a thread of longing, the hint of an alternative pathway, the words and music of the gathered community?

Sisters and brothers in Christ, Advent awaits us. Let us place our feet on the road and begin the journey. May we find in familiar words, rituals and customs the birth of the new thing that awaits us.

-Ann Siddal

***HYMN #103**

Watcher Tell Us of the Night

UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH

God in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed.

-Mark Pierson

+ A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow,

the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of you coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:21-27

Psalms 126, Eph. 1:15-21

Hebrews 11:1-6

AN INVITATION

Grounded Hope

***HYMN # 102**

O How Shall I Receive You

TO PRAY TOGETHER...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, Yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen - May our future actions grow from here!

TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT...

AN INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Virtual offering plate: bit.do/southchurch; other options include using the "Donate" button on the website, or mailing/dropping off a check to the church office.



OFFERTORY

Prepare the Way O Zion

arr. Richard Blake

SUNG RESPONSE

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TO SERVE THE WORLD

*HYMN #106

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

*BENEDICTION

Jesus did not leave us without hope but sent the Holy Spirit to nurture faith and love in this world. Live this vision in all that you do: respond to rancor with kindness, be patient where there is pain, and let your dreams become reality. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

+ 10 a.m. Service Only

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Prayers, Joy and Concerns

Prayers for Mindy Fruci's Aunt Kelley, Jed and his family, Phil, Kit DeVrie's great grandson, Martha Burham's friend Karen, the Prout family, and all those who are traveling.

In memoriam: Jerry Rardin.

Today's Participants

Lay Readers: (8) Deb Imse (10) Becky Josephson

Ushers: (10) Clara, Lilia, Lorens, and Shasta Jorgensen

Advent Candles: (8) Clark, Nancy, and Rolf Gesen

(10) Chris and Cheryl Simmers, and Lili Sage

Cover Art: Avery Sahr

Flowers this week are kindly donated by Sally Bird-

In memory of Kerry and our families who are no longer with us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Hours: The church office is open **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and **Thursday, Friday** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call ahead to ensure there is someone available to greet you.

Senior High Youth: The youth will meet **today** at 7 p.m. for a game night.

Moment for Mission: The collection for **November** is going to replenish the South Church Relief Society Endowment which quietly provides funds for people within our congregation, our local community, and our schools who find themselves financially challenged for one reason or another. Donations can be put in the offering plates, mailed to the church office, or online.

Bakeless Bake Sale: The Genesis Circle is hosting a bakeless bake sale. Instead of baking, they are asking for a monetary contribution which will allow them to continue their mission with the hope that they can fill Fellowship Hall with tasty treats in the near future. If you are able, please consider donating to the Genesis Circle. All checks should be payable to Genesis Circle and mailed to the church office.

Advent Events: Advent Wreath Making will take place **Today** at 3 p.m., Advent Ornament Making will take place on **December 5** at 3 p.m., Advent Card Making will take place on **December 12** at 3 p.m., and an Advent Carol Sing will take place on **December 19** at 3 p.m. If you are interested, please reach out to the office or register online.

Advent Booklet: *Hope for Christmas Past, Present and Future*, written by Stephenie Hovland, provides daily Advent prayers and focuses on the long ago promise of the coming of Christ, the present coming of Christ into our daily lives, and the hope of Christ's glorious return and our eternal home. These booklets are available in Fellowship Hall.

Advent Booklet for Families: Countdown to Christmas! Each family can create their own Advent centerpiece to count the days until Jesus' birthday. These booklets are available in Fellowship Hall.

Epiphany Tableau: This year we will perform *Once Upon a Manger*. All children ages 4+ are welcome to participate in this performance. Our first rehearsal will be on **Sunday, November 28** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All children interested should be present at this rehearsal. Please bring a bagged lunch.

A Service of Remembrance: The Lay Ministry Visitor team is holding a Service of Remembrance on **Tuesday, December 7** at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The season of Advent can be lonely and sad for those who have lost a loved one. At this service all who wish to do so will be invited to light a candle in memory of a particular loved one. Please join us.

Memorial Service: Memorial services for Jerry Rardin will be held virtually on **January 8** at 2 p.m. and **January 22**, TBA.

HYMN #103 *Watcher Tell Us of the Night*

Watcher, tell us of the night, what it signs of promise are.
Traveler, O a wondrous sight! See that glory beaming star!
Watcher, does it beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel!

Watcher, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watcher will it beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!

Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, I rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

HYMN #102 *O How Shall I Receive You*

O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,
blessed hope of every people, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give meow by your own pure light,
to know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and good will,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.

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HYMN #106 *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
To those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free.
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

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