

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of Falmouth, Massachusetts
of the United Church of Christ**



**Sunday, November 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

You Are Welcome Here!

We welcome all who are joining us in worship this morning. If you would like to share a prayer of joy or concern, we invite you to write them down on the podium outside the sanctuary entrances. During the *Moment of Greeting* we invite everyone to fill out the fellowship pad and pass the pad down your pew and back again. Nursery / Prekindergarten: The downstairs playroom is available but not staffed. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a caregiver. The livestreamed service is available in the NPK classroom.

Rev. Jonathan Drury, Minister

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following worship.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

MEDITATION: *"For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty forever beyond its reach."* J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King*

ORGAN PRELUDE

A MOMENT OF GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***OPENING HYMN NO.114,** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passing of the Lord's Peace

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.

Advent is a time to remember that God's love extends to all people.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.

Advent is a time to renew our determination.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God of steadfast love, we entered this space today to worship you in gladness. We come into your presence singing your praises. You are our creator; we are your people. Be with us, O God, as we celebrate all of creation: We give thanks for the sun, water, air and winds that nourish your earth and which provide the bounty we enjoy. Bless us as we bless your name, *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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE *Martine and Wil Bindler-Desbiens*

Today we light the **first Advent candle**; the candle of hope. This is the beginning of our Advent season. The light of this candle reminds us that hope begins with a spark that at first seems small and insignificant, but in time grows into a brilliant flame, a flame that quickly spreads, filling the darkness with light and bringing a renewed sense of hope to a world filled with doubt and fear.

Second Voice: Please join me in prayer...

ADVENT PRAYER: Gracious God, we thank you for the promise of the scripture that through Christ, we have hope. Forgive our lack of faith and restore in our hearts the assurance that your love can conquer the tyranny of injustice in a broken world. We pray today that you would strengthen our faith in your mercy and righteousness so we can live in hope every day of our lives. Amen.

OT SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 2:1-5 (OT p.773 in the pew Bible)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Blessed the people the Lord has chosen; chosen to be his own.*

NT SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 24:36-44 (NT p.33 in the pew Bible)

MESSAGE: Preparing For an Unexpected Hour

OFFERTORY

CHORAL ANTHEM *Bring Us Hope* Schram

*Doxology - No. 44

Offertory Prayer

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN NO. 116,** *People, Look East*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich:"

because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Those who are able, please stand

Visitors - We welcome you to our church fellowship and hope you will come again. We invite you to sign the *Friendship Pad* that is passed in the pew. There are many new faces in our congregation; we encourage those with name tags to please wear them.

Print-outs of the day's sermon are available. Please speak to one of this morning's Deacons.

Greeters are Jan Goodell and Carol Mills.

Ushers are Martine Bindler-Desbiens, Marie Tansey, Carole Lyons, Olivia White, Barbara and Ernie Kirsch.

Lay Reader is Jolie Drury.

Jr. Deacon is Addie Birmingham.

Deacons of the Month are Wil Bindler-Desbiens and John Honey.

Flowers on the altar-table are given in gratitude of you! We thank God every day for your participation in our church community; for everything you do and for everything you are!

*If you would like to commemorate a person or special event by purchasing flowers for the altar should please contact Joanne Blum-Carnevale at capecodjoanel@gmail.com or by calling 508-548-0480.

Announcements



CHRISTMAS FAIR



**Saturday December 6
9 - 2**

**First Congregational Church
68 Main Street Falmouth Green**

Jewelry, Fresh Holiday Greens,
Knitwear, Books, Crafts, Elegant Junque,
Country Store, Café

info@firstcongfalmouth.org



The Book Korner is accepting newer books in good condition. Please do not drop off torn or stained copies, magazines, textbooks or reference books (encyclopedias, atlases, dictionaries, etc.). **Do you have Evergreens in your yard or unused Vases or Christmas Mugs in your cabinet?** The Holiday Greens group needs your vessels to make arrangements sold at our church's Christmas Fair. Vases, containers, and holiday coffee mugs can be placed in the Deacons' small kitchen room from Sunday, Nov. 23 through Wednesday, Dec 3rd. Please label "for Holiday Greens". Please leave your cut evergreens outside the Lower level Exterior Door (adjacent to the Portico) starting Saturday, Nov. 29 through Wednesday, Dec 3rd. Questions about volunteering to work with the greens – email Carol JC Mills carol.j.c.mills@gmail.com. **THANK YOU!** **The 1st Congo Café needs baked good wrapped for individual sale** (cookies, brownies, bars, cupcakes and muffins are all welcome here!). **Jewelry is asking** for very gently used fine handbags, scarves, winter hats, unworn quality shoes, etc.

Hunger and hardship are not distant realities and God's provision does not depend on politics; so when Congress is unable to act, we still can by partnering with The Service Center to help our local neighbors in need. Please check the food needs on our barrels and remember that November 23rd is frozen Turkey drop off (10-14 lbs, not fresh). The Children's Holiday Program has also begun, now collecting winter coats sizes 0-16. Thank you! Your Outreach Committee.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Tues.	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Group
	10:00 a.m.	Friendly Circle
	10:30 a.m.	Mahjong
Wed.	9:00 a.m.	Playtime Playgroup
Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 6	9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.	Christmas Fair!
	6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.	Lighting of the Village Green
Dec.14	Worship	Joy! A Gospel Christmas Celebration
Dec.17	6:00p.m.	Blue Christmas: John Wesley Church
Dec.19	7:00p.m.	Falmouth Chorale Lessons and Carols
Dec.21	6:00p.m.	FCC: Longest Night Vigil and Homeless Memorial
Dec.24	7:00p.m.	Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols and Setting the Stable

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

People Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowing of the year.
Make you house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today – Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrow, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today – Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today – Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today – Love, the Lord, is on the way.