

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

December 7, 2025

Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

**TIME TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME**

**TIME OF SHARING**

**ADVENT HYMN** The Candle of Hope

Screen

Tune: O Worship the King

**The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;**

**The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.**

**Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,**

**Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.**

[hymnsbycarolyn.com](http://hymnsbycarolyn.com) used with permission

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Screen

One: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to expect God's justice.

**ALL: TODAY WE BLESS THE ROOT THAT IS ALREADY BLOOMING FOR THE HARVEST. WE WELCOME THE CHILD THAT IS ALREADY PROPHECYING TO THE NATIONS.**

One: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

**ALL: SOON - YES, VERY SOON - PEACE WILL NOT BE A PROCESS PAINTED WITH BLOODSHED. THE POOR WILL BE FED, THE PERSECUTED WILL BE RELIEVED, THE VULNERABLE WILL BE SHELTERED, AND ALL PEOPLE WILL FLOURISH TOGETHER.**

One: God's peace outshines every fear.

(The second Advent candle is lit.)

[thepilgrimpress.com](http://thepilgrimpress.com)

**SUNG INTROIT** Star Child

Screen

**STAR-CHILD, EARTH-CHILD, GO BETWEEN OF GOD,**

**LOVE CHILD, CHRIST CHILD, HEAVEN'S LIGHTENING ROD.**

**THIS YEAR, THIS YEAR, LET THE DAY ARRIVE WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES FOR EVERYONE, EVERYONE ALIVE.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Isaiah 11, Psalm 72, Matthew 3)

Screen

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

**MANY: WE COME TO BE INSPIRED BY STORIES OF A MESSIAH WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD—AND CHANGE US.**

One: We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts.

**MANY: WE COME TO RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS IN STORE FOR US IN THIS SEASON OF WAITING.**

One: Come! Let us worship our god—the one who brings all things to fulfillment.

[worshipways.com](http://worshipways.com) Maria Mankin

\*

**ADVENT PRAYER** (inspired by Matthew 3: 1-12)

**Screen**

One: Prepare, for the day of God's coming draws near!

**MANY: WE ARE HERE. WHAT IS THERE TO PREPARE?**

One: Prepare for peace.

**MANY: HOLY GOD, MAY THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN US BE ERASED.**

One: May we, people of all backgrounds, walk with one another; listen to one another; bear one another's burdens.

**MANY: MAY WE BE PEACEMAKERS IN EVERYTHING WE SAY AND DO.**

One: Prepare for hope.

**MANY: MERCIFUL GOD, WHEN WE LOOK AROUND, THE PROMISES OF YOUR KINGDOM SEEM SO DISTANT.**

One: Grant us tenacity:

**MANY: TO BRING LIGHT WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS; PEACE WHERE THERE IS STRIFE, COMFORT WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR.**

**ALL: LET THE LIGHT OF YOUR PRESENCE SHINE IN US,  
SO THAT ALL MAY KNOW THAT THE DARKNESS WILL NOT WIN.**

One: Prepare for God.

**MANY: ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU STRIPPED YOURSELF ENTIRELY TO COME INTO THIS WORLD.**

One: Weak, fragile, and dependent,

**MANY: YOU GAVE YOURSELF INTO THE CARE OF AN UNWED TEENAGER.**

One: In following you, may we become as vulnerable.

**MANY: MAY WE STRIP AWAY ALL THAT PROTECTS US, ALL THAT WE HIDE BEHIND, AND LET IT BURN LIKE CHAFF.**

**ALL: MAY OUR ACTIONS BEAR FRUIT THAT GLORIFIES YOU, ETERNAL GOD,  
LOVE INCARNATE. AMEN.**

~ written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH.  
She blogs at <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION****RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

One: When we feel so negative about ourselves, and we do not hear the acceptance of those who care about us.

**ALL: Forgive us, O Lord.**

One: When our sense of isolation blocks out our awareness of your abiding love.

**ALL: Forgive us, O Lord.**

One: When we feel so guilty, we cannot hear your forgiveness and find new life.

**ALL: Forgive us, O Lord. Amen. The good news is that we are accepted and affirmed by God as we are.**

One: The good news is that we are not strangers to ourselves or to one another.

**ALL: We are God's children, members of one body. Our sins are forgiven. We have been brought into new life.**

**ADVENT WORDS** (inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10)

~ written by **Roddy Hamilton, copyright © Mucky Paws.**  
<http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

**From the bulb there comes a flower  
from the desert rock a flow of water  
from the rainbow there come the hope of life  
from the bible there comes the word of truth  
from the cross there comes the love of God  
from the tomb there comes the resurrection  
from the prophet comes the vision of new earth**

**but from the stump  
from this dried out log  
from a family tree that has lost all integrity...**

**...there comes the shoot of David  
the lifeline of salvation  
the promise of justice  
the longing for transformation  
the word of life  
the expectation of Messiah**

**from the stump of Jesse  
comes a covenant  
reborn.**

**\*HYMN**                      In the Bulb There is a Flower                      **#433**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7, 18-19; Matt. 3:1-12

**MEDITATION**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**                      In The Bleak Midwinter #128 v.4                      **Screen**

**What can I offer, poor as I Am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part,  
But What I can I offer, all my heart.**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**                      **Screen**

**Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and our world. On every street corner, beside rivers, lakes, oceans, at the top of your tallest mountains, and dwelling below the cliffs, your people are in need. Take these gifts to strengthen our church and bring relief to your beloved children. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN** Until All Are Fed                      **Screen**

**On the green, green grass, they gathered long ago.  
To hear what the Master said.  
What they had they shared - some fishes and some loaves.  
And they served until all were fed.  
Until all are fed we cry out.  
Until all on earth have bread.  
Like the one who loves us each and every one...  
We serve until all are fed.**

## **WORDS OF REMEMBERING**

**Screen**

**O, we remember God's promises  
Of Emmanuel, and a branch of Jesse's root.  
Of Leader, Wisdom, Monarch,  
Key of all that is locked,  
And dawn of every morning.**

**And we remember the sacred story,  
That happened in the House of Bread  
For a new mother and father,  
Sheep and shepherds,  
A few wise travelers with gifts  
And many, many angels.**

**And we remember that the baby  
Named Jesus,  
Grew up to heal people,  
And teach them with strange parables,  
That made people angry.  
At Passover he broke unleavened bread  
And poured wine and love freely.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Screen**

**We thank you, God, that you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or will be by giving yourself to them in love. We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We ask now that you bless us, as we share this bread and cup that we might be nourished by that same unbounded love, and so be encouraged to be your servants to the world. And now, as your daughters and sons who you have reconciled to yourself, we pray: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Screen**

**Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**                      O God of Love, O God of Peace                      **#571**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

\*If rising from a seated position is an issue for you, please remain seated. The phrase, “Stand in body or spirit as you are able” is intended to give you permission to do so without embarrassment.

**Congregational Response** to each prayer request is: **Your prayer is our prayer. Your joy is our joy.**

**Communion** is open to all, including children with parent’s approval. We serve wine in the outer rings and juice in the middle. We offer a gluten-free wafer for those with gluten intolerance or need a gluten-free diet.

**Credits:** CCLI #48321379

Scriptures: From the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition - NRSRVU copyright @2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgy: As found on the screens.

Photos: [giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com](https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com) , Google Images, Pastor Bonnie

**Reminders - Head to <https://stpaulserin.org> for details**

12/08 - Council Meeting at 6 PM

12/10 - Blue Christmas at 7 PM

12/12 - Wedding Rehearsal at 4 PM

12/13 - Wedding Cyrene Baetz and Seth Dornfeld at 1:30 PM

12/14 - Sunday School Christmas Program

12/14 - Secret Pal Party

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services at 2:30 and 4:30 PM

**Please remember** with your prayers, cards, calls and visits:, Joyce O’K, Marilyn D., John and Polly E., Diane S.

**Birthdays:** Barb B. celebrates on Tuesday! Happy Birthday!

**Greeters for This Week:** Bernice D. and Donna R.

**Greeters for Next Week:** Vicki and Eugene D.

**Liturgist for This Week:** John D.

**Liturgist for Next Week:** Jill L.

*Following worship, you are invited for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall.*