

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele

Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

Welcome

Rev. Will Burhans

A Time of Silence

Prelude

Wexford Carol

Traditional Irish Carol

Good people all this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem, upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went, the Babe to find;
And as God's angel had foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid,
And by His side, the virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of life,
Who came to earth to end all strife.

Peter Owens, tenor & oboe

Advent Wreath: Candle of Joy

the Rozmanith family

*Opening Hymn

Angles from the Realms of Glory

PH #117

Gathering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Kathleen Zagata

O Wisdom coming forth from the utterance of God, pervading and permeating all creation, you have ordered all things with strength and with gentleness. Come now and teach us the way we should go. Lift the torpor of our minds, soften the hardness of our hearts, loosen the rigidity of our spirits so we can love You more fully and serve the world more effectively. In Jesus's name 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

*Gloria In Excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the Highest!)

PH #116

Time for the Young

Ben Pulaski

*Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

NCH #145

Verse 1: Maire Claire DuBard, solo

Verse 2: choir

Verses 3 - 5: everyone

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist: Rev. Judy Arnold
OT pg. 663, LP pg. 622
NT pg. 56, LP NT pg. 48

Sermon

"Praying the O Antiphons"

Rev. Will Burhans

A Quiet Time for Reflection

Solo

From Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Recit: Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd,
And the ears of the deaf unstopped;
Then shall the lame man leap as a hart,
And the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35: 5, 6)
Aria: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd
and he shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.
Come unto Him all ye that labour,
come unto Him all ye that are heavy laden,
and He will give you rest.
Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him;
for he is meek and lowly of heart:
and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28, 29)
Susan K. Navien, soprano

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Judy Arnold

Offertory

Anthem

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

Jean Berger (1909-2002)

The eyes of all wait upon thee:
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfies the desire
of ev'ry living thing. (Psalm 145: 15, 16)

*Doxology

NCH #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

O King of Nations, come, bless these gifts that we have given. Multiply our small offering for purposes beyond these walls, for needs greater than our own, for the good of neighbors near and strangers far. Make of our whole lives an offering of love so that You, O God Among Us, may be known to others as a God of Love. Amen!

*Closing Hymn

O Come O Come Emmanuel

PH #110

Benediction

Passing of the Peace of Christ

(Please offer "peace" or "The peace of Christ" to your neighbor as you depart)

Postlude

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele (vs. 12)

Böhm

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation
21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180 www.fcc-winchester.org

Connect with Us!



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Text FCCW to 22828

The Congregation, Ministers to the World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Ms. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Congregational Health & Wellness

Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Sarah Marino, Office Manager

Ed Banzy, Building Manager

Bill Lewis, Building Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Brianna Connolly, Nursery Supervisor

Jose Foronda, Bookkeeper

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)



December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 Worship Service

Children Check In

Please scan this QR Code to check in your children (pre-k through 8th grade) if they will be going off to their classrooms.

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship. We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

We have an inductive hearing loop for those whose hearing aids have Telecoil. Listening devices are also available in the back. For our coffee hour in Chidley Hall, an elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there are trained caregivers in our nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room outfitted with a changing table, toys, rocking chairs, couches, a water bubbler and a video link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 8th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young Afterwards, the children and youth are led to their classrooms by their teachers.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service. Just head downstairs and towards the back of the church facility until you find the large hall, or follow the signs or pick up a laminated map to help guide you.

*We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community
growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.*

People for Whom We Are Praying ...

<u>Names</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
The McCall Taylor Family	In their grief at the death of Jeff Ashworth, the husband of MaryAnn's sister.
Cathy Crabtree and Family	In their grief at the death of her father Harrison.
Jane Ring Frank	For healing.
Suzanne White	For courage and comfort in her struggle with cancer.
Barbara, Bruce and the rest of the Lauterwasser family.	In their grief at the loss of Herb - beloved husband, father and grandfather.
Don Martin, brother in law of Becky & Trent Parkhill	For healing and strength during chemotherapy.
Eli Paxinos, 16-month-old great nephew of Tony & Pam McPherson	For comfort and care in his hospitalization while doctors seek a diagnosis.
Mimi Steffen, friend of Mike Redding	Healing as she recovers from a brain hemorrhage.
Bruce Lauterwasser	As he starts the next round of chemotherapy.
Janet Snover	For strength in rehab to recover fully from her stairs fall.
Janet Brewer	For healing.
Susan Zimmerman, Julianne's mother	For stabilization & relief from pain; and comfort for her family.

Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know if you have someone to add or remove from this list.

Today's Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God, and in honor of our wedding anniversary by Connie & Peter Rosenberger.

Deacons

The deacons serving today are: Michelle Crawford, Carrie Ehrbar, Kathy Mortensen, and Jenny Splaine.

News & Upcoming Events

When Christmas hurts, join us at the Service of Light Thursday December 19th at 7 pm in Ripley Chapel.

For many people, the approaching Christmas holidays does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. They may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one or after a divorce. Perhaps they have been unable to have a child, or experience a life changing illness, addiction or the aftermath of trauma. Perhaps they feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations. The Service of light remembers those who experience a loss of joy this holiday season. Designed to move from darkness to hope, the music, readings and candle lighting open us to God's quiet presence and the gifts of the season- peace, love and encouragement that sustains though the longest night. The service is a community wide event. Invite a friend or loved one experiencing difficulties. Childcare is available. For a ride, contact the Health Ministry Office by 12/17 at (781) 729-9180. ext 106 or Kathleenzag@gmail.com.

December 22nd-Cookie Walk

Each year the youth hosts a Cookie Walk during Advent. We would love to have you donate your favorite cookies (NUT FREE). Bring them to church with you on December 22nd with the list of ingredients. After church, everyone is encouraged to grab a dozen cookies with a donation to the youth mission trips this year. *We are looking for someone to help the Middle School Class set up and run this. Please contact ben.pulaski@gmail.com if you are able to do this.

FCC Monthly Men's Group, Tonight

7-9 pm 4 Heritage Drive, Woburn (Paul and Lynne Rahmeier's house).

All FCC men and their guests are welcome. We discuss matters that are personal and spiritual. Pot-luck beverages or snacks are welcome but not expected. Questions to chris.noble@yahoo.com.

Ruth Group will meet Tonight

7 to 9 pm at the home of Regina Campbell, 2 Mayflower Road

Rather than our usual book discussion we will be sharing favorite poems or other short pieces. Please feel free to contact Maryann McCall-Taylor or Kaye Nash with any questions or ride requests.

A Christmas Tradition of Joy!

Spread Christmas Joy by delivering a poinsettia to a member of our faith community at home and in a local care center. Plants will be available on Sunday, December 22nd after worship in the front of the sanctuary. Deliveries can be made on Sunday or during the first few days of the week.

Christmas Eve Worship

5 PM	Candlelight Service & Pageant
10 PM	Candlelight Service

Stepping Stones

This week our children are reading Luke 1:26-38, which is the story of the angel telling Mary that she is going to have a child. It continues our theme of how God can use any of us to do magnificent things! Ask your child this week, "If God sent you a personal message, what do you think He would say?" Here is a prayer to pray together as well this week: Thank you, God, for baby Jesus. All things are possible through you. Help us to remember that during this season. In Jesus' name...AMEN.

Middle School

This week's lesson is about the three wise men. The story comes from Matthew 2:1-18. Christmas is a huge deal. It's when our king was born. And each year, it's easy to lose sight of that amid the celebrations and presents and snow and family traditions. It's the norm. But what if, once and for all, we blew the top off this endless cycle and radically changed the way we look at Christmas? This lesson is designed to help the students see Christmas in a whole new light and understand Christ's significance and power in every single day, not just December 25.

Forum

In our class this week, our lesson comes from 2 Corinthians 4:1-12. It teaches us how God uses ordinary, fragile, often broken people like us to reveal Jesus to the world. The youth will be challenged to examine how they are like jars of clay that hold a great treasure. They'll also look at how their choices can help or hinder their ability to shine the light of God. Be sure to ask your youth how they see or don't see God in others or themselves.

Youth Progressive Dinner

December 22nd at 5pm

Every year, our youth traverse across the town of Winchester to three different host families and enjoy singing, eating, and laughing together. Please keep them (and the chaperones) in your prayers for the thanksgiving of community and for their safety as they walk from house to house. All middle school and high school students are encouraged to join us for this evening of fun and festivities.

Christmas Eve Family Service 5 pm

Be sure to join us this Christmas Eve for our Family Service which includes a retelling of the birth story of Jesus. We have an unlimited number of spots open for all of our young people to be shepherds, angels, and animals. If your elementary aged student wants to participate in the service, we ask that they come at 430pm on Tuesday, December 24th so that we can get them in costume.

Help for Jane Ring Frank & Steve Cole

As you probably know, Jane Ring Frank, our minister of music and worship arts has been in the hospital for the past week with respiratory issues that are subsiding enough so she can come home. This is wonderful news and a challenge for Jane and Steve as she works toward getting her strength back, without overdoing. So many of you have asked how you can be of help and now we have the answer. We will be collecting money toward Uber Eats gift cards for Jane and Steve. This will allow them to take meal planning and preparation off their list for a while.

If you would like to help, please send or bring your gift (cash or check) to the church office. Checks can be made out to the church, just write "Jane & Steve" in the memo so we can ensure it gets recorded correctly. We hope to get at least one substantial gift card to them this week; and will continue receiving gifts through the end of December.

**Christmas Plants which glorify our sanctuary in the coming weeks
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:**

Arvid, Elena, Pam, and Lynne, with our love, by the Tresselt family

Alice Blasi, by Steve & Alex Rohall

Michael & Marie Carpini, the Carpini family

Robyn Collins, by Rob & Jody Collins Skinner

Peter French, by the French family

Christine Macfarlane, by Rob & Jody Collins Skinner

Janet Harvey, by the Mahoney family

Paul Mahoney, by the Mahoney family

Our parents: Robert & Theo Hall, Thomas & Marjorie Montgomery, by Kris & John Montgomery

Our dear friend Kit Merriman, by Kris & John Montgomery

Jean & David Mortensen, by Katherine Mortensen, Nathan & Geoff Morris

Mary & Paul Morris, by Katherine Mortensen & Geoff Morris

Elizabeth Morris, by Katherine Mortensen & Geoff Morris

Richard & Mary Osgood, Rich & Alice Osgood

George & Helen Osgood, by Rick & Alice Osgood

Ann Russell, by Ann's family

Thomas C. and Virginia N. Sanders, by Lucy N. Sanders

Imogene Sansom, by the Sansom family

John P. Sawyer, by Susan Dreyfus Sawyer and Andy Spiegel

Our Parents, by Susan Dreyfus Sawyer and Andy Spiegel

Edna Ibsen Schow, by Rob & Jody Collins Skinner

Frances Skinner, by Rob & Jody Collins Skinner

Sarah Skinner, by Rob & Jody Collins Skinner

Rev. William F. Skinner, by Rob & Jody Collins Skinner

Our grandfather, "Bumpa", by Maggie & Lizzie Splaine

Janice Wilson, by Fred Greene and family

Janice Wilson, by friends

**Christmas Plants which glorify our sanctuary in the coming weeks
are given to the Glory of God and in Honor of:**

Joe and Mabs Harris, by the Carpini family

Empty nesters, kids, and spouses, coming home for the holiday, by Betsy & Jonathan Goodell

PRAYING THE "O ANTIPHONS"

December 17 – O Wisdom, Come!

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

*Pray today for wisdom in your own life and wisdom for those who lead our communities
and country.*

December 18 – O Lord of Israel, Come!

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Pray today for those oppressed and abused by others in power.

December 19 – O Root of Jesse, Come!

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

*Pray today for those different from ourselves in species, race, religion, gender identity,
nationality for God's love is offered for ALL!*

December 20 – O Key of David, Come!

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners among us!

Pray for all those imprisoned, literally in jail and/or figuratively in spirit or mind.

December 21 – O Glorious Dayspring, Come!

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death.

*Pray for those in darkness on this darkest day of the year, those struggling with depression,
a sense of hopelessness because of mental illness or dire life situations.*

December 22 – O King of Nations, Come!

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save humanity, whom you formed from the dust!

*Pray for the church, ask for forgiveness for its sins over the ages and strength for its true
mission and purpose of spreading God's love.*

December 23 – O God With Us, Come!

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

*Pray for salvation for all creation, the hastening of the final culmination when all things will
be put right and God's kingdom come!*