



# First Congregational Church

IN WINCHESTER, UCC

## Order of Worship - Hanging of the Greens - November 29, 2020

Prelude *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* [2017] Thomas Keesecker (b.1956)

Welcome Rev. Will Burhans

Advent Wreath: Candle of Hope The Murtie Family

The Lord's Prayer

Opening Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Pilgrim Hymnal, #104

Comfort, comfort ye my people, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, And her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord o'er the earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token that His Word is never broken.

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Sanctuary Evergreens Richard Carbone

Anthem *The Holly and the Ivy* [1920] trad./arr. Rutland Boughton  
Susan K. Navien, Cindy Wankowicz, Peter Owens, Tony McPherson

The Christmas Poinsettia Megan Scipione

Carol *Silent Night, Holy Night* (1 verse) Pilgrim Hymnal, #138

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm; All is bright;  
Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

The Christmas Tree Margaret McIndoe

Carol *O Christmas Tree* Traditional German Folk Song

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How faithful are your branches!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How faithful are your branches.  
So green when summer breezes blow;  
Still green amid the winter snow.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How faithful are your branches!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
O tree of green, unchanging.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
O tree of green, unchanging.  
Since evergreen your stand, we know  
God doth eternal life bestow.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
O tree of green, unchanging.

Peter Owens & Jeffrey Mead

The Gifts of Christmas

Nick Troisi

Offertory Carol

*The Song of Saint Nicholas*  
(To the tune of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas")

Once upon a long ago very far away,  
In the town of Bethlehem lying in some hay,  
Jesus came for you and me, bringing heaven's love  
As a gift for us to have from the Lord above.

In the town of Myra once also long ago,  
Lived good Bishop Nicholas, hair as white as snow.  
Nicholas loved Jesus who loved and helped us all.  
"I will do the same," said he, "helping great and small."

We should be like Nicholas, thankful, good and kind,  
Loving those who need our help, all the ones we find.  
Jesus and Saint Nicholas taught us how to give:  
Share but never seek rewards, that is how to live!

Scripture

Mark 13:24-37

Liturgist: Aaron Kneiss

Sermon

Reverend Judith Arnold

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Will Burhans

Response: God of hope, lead us to your light

Closing Hymn

*Wait with Us*  
(To the tune of "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Pilgrim Hymnal, #103)

Wait with us, this Holy Advent,  
Wait for Jesus to appear.

Wait for incarnation's moment.  
May the Spirit soon draw near.

Wait with us with hopeful yearning.  
Clear the clutter of our days.  
Free us from our anxious churning;  
Fill our hearts and lift our gaze.

Wait with us; let peace live in us.  
Draw us in, and make us whole.  
Sons and daughters of your promise,  
Heal our lives and calm our souls.

Wait with us for joy's surprises.  
Light and gladness all around.  
God our Wellspring, wonder rises.  
Spirits primed, let joy astound.

Wait with us for love's fulfillment.  
Word made flesh, God's gift profound.  
Lead us to the life abundant,  
Jesus comes, may grace abound!

(Written by members of this congregation, the writing of this hymn was made possible  
by Rev. Judith Arnold's sabbatical grant, 2012.)

Benediction

Rev. Judy Arnold

Postlude

*Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele (vs. 11)*

Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

Rev. Will Burhans, Lead Pastor, Rev. Judy Arnold, Associate Pastor,

Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts, Jeffrey Mead, Keyboards

Kathleen Zagata, Minister of Health & Wellness, Jacob Greenberg, Interim Director Faith Formation Children & Youth

Thanks to Daniel Khudyak who is our contract video editor!

[www.danielkhudyak.com/](http://www.danielkhudyak.com/) The password is dkhudyak

### Please keep these people in your prayers:

Pam McPherson and the whole McPherson family, in their grief at the death of Pam's brother, Trip.  
Bruce Lauterwasser, for healing as he recovers from a recent round of radiation treatment.

A prayer for comfort in grief for Dave Weir and family, on the passing of his mother, Adalain  
(Taffy) Weir.

John Giblin, Deirdre's father, for continued recovery.

Ed Banzy asks prayers for the family and friends of Wendy Haraldsen, in their grief.

For strength of body and resilience of spirit of Lisa Loughlin's friend, Marie, as she begins chemo  
for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

**Reynolds Wilson Burns, Laurie Roby's nephew's wife.** Prayers for healing for her and for Laurie's nephew, Bryant.

**Elizabeth Thompson and her friends and family.** Elizabeth had a stroke in June and has been declining. She is in the nursing facility at Brookhaven.

**Glenn McPherson, Tony McPherson's brother,** for healing as he awaits a kidney transplant.

Jane Ring Frank and Stephen Cole, for healing.

**Sarah Hebb Carpenter,** for successful surgery and healing.

**A prayer of mourning for all those who have died of COVID19,** as Renée Graham described them in The Globe on 5/12/2020 they are: "...health care workers, military veterans, doting grandparents, church folk, Holocaust survivors, a man who helped liberate a concentration camp, cancer survivors, bikers, lawmakers, grocery store workers, neurobiologists, barbers, meat plant workers, accountants, truck and bus drivers, security guards and educators."

**For all the Black Lives that have been extra-judicially and violently extinguished.**

**Olivia,** for healing and help finding her way back to recovery.

**All of the front line healthcare workers and first responders,** for their safety.

**Rev. Lucy Sanders,** for healing.

**Susan Zimmerman, Julianne's mother,** For stabilization & relief from pain; and comfort for her family.