

Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in the back of the seat in front of you, or at www.firstparishyork.net.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building, which is accessed by stairs in the foyer. Wheelchair accessible restrooms can be found across the drive in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

Nursery Care: *Our downstairs nursery is not currently staffed due to our pandemic restrictions, but you are welcome to accompany your child to the nursery at any point during the worship and spend time there as a family if you feel that you need to.*

Video and Streaming: We stream our worship services live and archive them on www.youtube.com. If for privacy reasons you do not wish to have you or your children's faces appear on video, you can sit in pews that are marked on the ends with blue tape. Feel free to ask a deacon to show you what those markings look like.

Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

Sunday School: In response to the current state of the pandemic, our Sunday School programs look a little different than usual! For now, Sunday School will be taking place outside as often as weather permits, and when it doesn't, we will adhere to strict masking and distancing protocols inside the Fellowship Hall. During the school year, anyone age 4 through 8th grade is welcome to attend Sunday School. *We ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the children make their way outside.* During the worship service, following the Message for All Ages, children will be invited to meet with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers will make their way outside to take part in fun and faith-based activities centered around a theme from the Bible. (Family members are always welcome to attend Sunday School if you wish!) After worship is over, families can go outside and sign out their children with the teachers. If you have any questions about the masking and distancing protocols practiced by First Parish's youth programs, please do reach out to Pastor Dan or any of our Sunday School teachers. Sunday School is free of charge.

Pastoral Care: If you'd like to meet with a pastor, please call the office at (207) 363-3758, or send an email to eric@firstparishyork.net or dan@firstparishyork.net. The pastors are also available to make hospital visits, and we ask that you let us know if you or a family member would like a visit. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, the hospital will not inform us unless you explicitly ask them to do so.

180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 ♦ 207-363-3758
office@firstparishyork.net ♦ www.firstparishyork.net



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021 ~ 9:30AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION/SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF PEACE)

**Indicates a time when you are invited to stand if you choose.*

PRELUDE Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus J.K.F. Fischer (1656-1746)
(Ricercar for the Time of Advent)
Deuxieme Dimanche de'Advent Charles Alexis Chalet (1837-1871)
(The Second Sunday of Advent)

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION
(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ's light in the world.)

***GATHERING PRAYER** *(together)* Pastor Dan Hollis
Gracious God, we hear the promise of the coming of Jesus. Fill our worship with anticipation of your love; and dedicate us to prepare your way by lifting up valleys in our lives and making smooth the rough places of others. In the name of Emmanuel – God with us, we pray...

***LORD'S PRAYER** *(together)*
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.

***OPENING HYMN** "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS" No. 153

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE The Burke Family

(Children ages 4 and up are invited to go to the church foyer to meet with their Sunday School teachers immediately following the lighting of the Advent candle)

ANTHEM "EVERY VALLEY" John Ness Beck (1930-1987)
*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. -- Isaiah 40: 4-5*
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:1-6 N.T. 52 Betty Kehoe

SERMON "CAN GOD GET A WORD IN?" Rev. Eric Dupee

RESPONSE Pastor Dan Hollis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS "PEACE" Weston Priory and Gregory Norbert
The text of this composition is based on John 14:27

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** *(together)* No. 34

HOLY COMMUNION
All are welcome to take Communion. As a pandemic precaution, you should have received an individually packaged wafer and juice as you entered the church. If you did not receive it, please see an usher.

***CLOSING HYMN** "ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" No. 589

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Eric Dupee

POSTLUDE Recessional on "Adeste Fideles"
Setting: Gordon Young (1919-1998)

*Flowers given in loving memory of Thi Nicole Sanabia Wilson,
daughter of Nancy and Joe Wilson.*

Flowers given in loving memory of family from Norman and Anne Monks.



THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 5th	9:30am Worship/Communion/Advent II 10:45am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Monday, December 6th	8am Zumba
Tuesday, December 7th	8:30am Yoga 3:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 8th	8am Cardio/Strength 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7pm Nativity Bible Study
Thursday, December 9th	8am Zumba 5pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 10th	8am Aerobics
Sunday, December 12th	9:15 Christmas Carol Sing 9:30am Worship/Advent III 10:45am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Leading Worship Today:

Reverend Eric Dupee

Pastor Dan Hollis

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

Jan Jonas, Moderator

John Covino, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



Prayer Tree: It is well-known the holiday season is a difficult time for a lot of people. It is when many feel loss and disappointment most acutely. This year we will designate one of the small trees directly in front of the Parish House (church offices) as a Prayer Tree. We are making tags available upon which we invite church members and members of the community to write some loss they have experienced, or something they grieve, or a prayer that weighs on their heart. Tags are available today in the narthex, if you would like to attach it to the tree.

Nativity Bible Study: December 8, 15, and 22 at 7pm on Zoom. Many of us know the story of the birth of Jesus, but how long has it been since you've really sat down and explored the accounts of Jesus' birth at the source? What surprising details do we often overlook, and what messages did God place there for you this Advent season? Join Pastor Dan for a dive into one of the most famous tales of all time as we wait for Christmas to arrive together. Contact dan@firstparishyork.net for Zoom invite and the weekly Scripture readings.

Congregation, York Community Donates 150 Warm Coats: Many individuals in York County will be warmer this winter thanks to the generosity of members of the First Parish Church congregation and York community who participated in FPC Mission Board's One Warm Coat drive.

More than 150 coats were collected at the November 28 worship service and a community drive held on December 1 concurrent with the Food Pantry Drive. The coats were delivered to the York County Community Action Corporation (YCCA), which will make them available to individuals who need them throughout York County. Also, a special thank you to the volunteers who helped: Cindy and Phil Bufithis, Linda and Phil Drew, Jim Dupre, Joe Goldstein, Pam Kryschow, and Joanne Lamothe.

First Wednesday Food Drive - December 1: Another huge thank you to our York community. This morning we had a large truck and a car full of non-perishable items to deliver to the YCSA (York Community Services Assoc.) Food Pantry along with over \$850.!! THANK YOU, York!

Green Tip/News: Efficiency Maine has debuted several new videos ("Go the Distance in an EV, weatherization tips, Heating/Cooling Systems, etc.) Check out their website or pick up an informative brochure at Eldredge Hardware or York Public Library. www.energymaine.com Pass it on!



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