

**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](http://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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:eric@firstparishyork.net) or [dan@firstparishyork.net](mailto: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.



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THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021~ 9:30AM WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF JOY)**

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

**9:15AM CHRISTMAS CAROL SING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor Dan Hollis

**CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

*(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ's light in the world.)*

“SILENT NIGHT” Arr., Kathleen Wissinger

**First Parish Handbell Choir**

**GATHERING PRAY** *(together)*

Rev. Eric Dupee

**God of joy and rejoicing, who strengthens what is weak; you who enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear, look upon our needs this day. Give us faith to live joyfully, sustained by your promises, as we eagerly await the day when they will be fulfilled for all the world to see, in your holy name...**

**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** “GATHER US IN” *(verses 1 and 2 only)* No. 649

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**

The Schrimper Family

*(Children ages 4 and up will be invited to go to the church foyer to meet with our Sunday School teachers immediately following the lighting of the Advent candle.)*

**ANTHEM**

"THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH" Jack Noble White (b. 1938)  
*Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.*

*Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion. Ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.*

-- Isaiah 12: 2-6

**First Parish Sanctuary Choir**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Eric Dupee

**SCRIPTURE** Zephaniah 3:14-20 O.T. page 830

Cindy Bufithis

**SERMON**

Pastor Dan Hollis

**RESPONSE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS** "JAZZ BELL CAROL" Arr., John Purifoy (b. 1952)

*This time of year, Yuletide blessings and cheer  
to each valley and hill bringing peace and good will.*

*Hark! Hear the sound, voices around  
Calling us here both far and near.*

**First Parish Men's Ensemble**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

No. 34

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN”

No. 160

**CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

Pastor Dan Hollis

**POSTLUDE**

“JOY TO THE WORLD” Arr., Gordon Young (1919-1998)

*The flowers are given in loving memory of John Sheperd Purrington by his family.*

*Flowers given in memory of my loving husband Charles Furlong by his wife and his family.*



**THIS WEEK**

**Today, Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:15am Christmas Carol Sing  
 9:30am Worship/Advent III  
 1pm Youth Group 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

8am Zumba

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Yoga

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

8am Cardio/Strength

9:30am Women's Bible Study

7pm Nativity Bible Study

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

8am Zumba

5pm Handbell Rehearsal

6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal

7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

8am Aerobics

**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Worship/Advent IV/Sweet Spirit

10:45am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal

5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**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.

**Sunday School Christmas Break:** This year there will be no Sunday School on December 26, January 2, January 9, or January 16. Children are still very welcome in church, and our nursery room downstairs will be unlocked for families to take advantage of as needed. Our last Sunday School class in 2021 will be December 19, and we will return on January 23 in 2022!

**Volunteers Needed:** Christmas Sunday is nearly here! We need volunteers to help deliver the poinsettias to church members who are home based after the December 19 morning service. The Flower Committee will have cards with the names, addresses and phone numbers available. Thank you all in advance! The Flower Committee

**Green Tip/News:** THANK YOU for using reusable shopping bags, reusable water bottles, travel cups, no straws, taking compostable leftover containers into the restaurant when you dine out and composting your food scraps (we, as a church, have been doing this since May 2019!) It takes a village...



**Ministers**

*All the Members of the Congregation*

*Leading Worship Today:*

*Pastor Dan Hollis*

*Reverend Eric Dupee*

**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*



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