

**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*, 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/@firstparishyork](http://www.youtube.com/@firstparishyork). 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:** 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. Partway through Sunday services, children are invited to meet with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers will make their way to the Fellowship Hall 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 across the drive to sign out their children with the teachers. Sunday School is free of charge.

**No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are On Life's Journey,  
You Are Welcome Here!**

We covenant with God and with one another as members of First Parish Church to be an Open and Affirming Church. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person created in the image of God. We are one body with many members: people of every age, marital status, family structure, faith background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, racial and cultural identity, and socio-economic status. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we invite all into the full life, ministry, and sacraments of the church. We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's message of unconditional love.

180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 ♦ 207-363-3758  
[office@firstparishyork.net](mailto:office@firstparishyork.net) ♦ [www.firstparishyork.net](http://www.firstparishyork.net)



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**THIRD SUNDAY OF** *Advent*

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First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ

"The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it."  
John 1:5

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023~ 10AM WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

**PRELUDE** “THE STAR PROCLAIMS THE KING IS HERE” Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)  
“THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM” Nicolas LeBègue (1630-1702)

**WELCOME AND THE CANDLE OF JOY** The Ohlson Family  
**Leader:** Today we will light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.  
**People: May the light of Christ shine in every corner of the world!**  
**Leader:** The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and darkness cannot overcome it!  
**People: Christ’s light shines in the hearts gathered here today. We are the church, called to be a beacon of light to the world!**  
**Leader:** We are shepherds of the light. We will carry Christ’s light into the world!  
**People: We will proclaim the Good News, rejoicing with joy!**

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

**GATHERING PRAYER** *(unison)* Rev. Eric Dupee  
**Eternal God, Prince of Peace, we pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our world. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our country. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our community. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our homes. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace between all people, and in all relationships, now and always...**

**LORD’S PRAYER** *(unison)*  
**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

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**  
*(Children ages 4 and up are invited to go to the church foyer to meet with their Sunday School teachers immediately following the Message for All Ages.)*

**ANTHEM** “JOY IN THE MORNING” Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)  
*There’ll be joy in the morning on that day:  
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone.  
There’ll be peace and contentment evermore.  
Every heart and voice will again rejoice.  
There’ll be love and forgiveness everywhere.  
And the glory of the Lord will shine upon us,  
and the glory will bring the truth divine.*  
**First Parish Sanctuary Choir**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 61:1-4 O.T. page 651 Sherry McConnell

**SERMON** “A Reason for Joy” Rev. Eric Dupee

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS** “SO TAKE THIS SONG OF JOY” Arr., Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)  
*So take this song of joy and keep it in your heart;  
and come the day we part, our love will always sing.  
Sweet melody of friendship, it fills our hearts and minds:  
the tie that gently binds.*  
**Sweet Spirit**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** *(unison)* No. 34  
*You are free to sing inclusive lyrics (below) or traditional lyrics (from the hymnal).*  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING ” No. 185

**CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN** Rev. Eric Dupee

**POSTLUDE** Recessional on “JOY TO THE WORLD” *(Antioch)*  
Arr., Gordon Young (1919-1998)

*We invite the congregation to remain seated in order to enjoy the postlude.  
However, you are welcome to exit the sanctuary at any time.*

*Flowers are given in loving memory of my parents, Jennie and Bill and my sister, Dawn  
from Gina Connolly.  
Flowers are given in loving memory of John Shephard Purrington by his family.*

## THIS WEEK

**Today, Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Advent Devotional  
10am Worship/Advent III  
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
4pm A Service of Lessons and Carols-  
Trinity Church

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Shake It Up  
6:30pm Church Council Meeting

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

8:30am Yoga  
6:30pm Assessors Meeting

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

8am Strength Training  
9:30am Wednesday Bible Study

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

8am Zumba  
6:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting

**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

8am Aerobics  
8:30am Advent Devotional  
10am Worship/Advent IV  
5:30pm Family Christmas Service  
8pm Candlelight Service



### **Ministers**

*All the Members of the Congregation*

*Leading Worship Today:*

*Rev. Eric Dupee*

*Rev. Dan Hollis*

### **Staff**

*Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries*

*Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate*

### **First Parish Church Lay Leaders**

*John Covino, Moderator*

*Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator*

*Ray Hamlin, Treasurer*

*Susan Mancinelli, Clerk*



First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
**FAITH FEATURES**

**Poinsettias:** Please help deliver a Poinsettia to a homebound church member after the December 24<sup>th</sup> service. Just come forward after the service to get the plant, name and address to brighten someone's Christmas! Thank you from the Flower Committee.

**Sunday School:** There will be no Sunday School on December 24 and 31. We will take a two-week Christmas break and return January 7.

**2024 Pledge Envelopes:** envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. If you did not request envelopes, but wish to have them, please contact Per Jonas at [finsec@firstparishyork.net](mailto:finsec@firstparishyork.net). Please discard any remaining 2023 envelopes at the start of the New Year.

**Advent Devotionals:** An Advent Devotional booklet, created with contributions of our church members, is available for you at the church entrance. Please take one! Pastor Eric will lead a discussion based on the devotionals on 12/24 at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall.  
**Thank you to First Parish Church member, Bonnie Periale, for beautifully creating the Advent Devotional.**

**Giving Tree:** For those who are buying gifts for children in need this year, thank you! Please drop off all donations by Tuesday, December 19 at 12noon.

**Dine with Nine:** We have 18 different opportunities to be with one another in January thru mid-March. 124 guests have been invited into folks' homes for food, drink, games, laughter, community, etc. You may sign up this Sunday, December 17 to attend one of the events. There may be opportunity for you to attend more than one, but let's let everyone have a chance to sign up this week. Keep checking the sign-up tables the weeks go by. Remember the object of these events are to meet new people within our church family. Please refrain from telling folks to "come to your house" so to speak! Chance getting to be with someone new! Questions? Linda Drew [p.l.drew79@me.com](mailto:p.l.drew79@me.com) or 207-363-3758

**Green Tip/News:** Megawatt-scale motors are required to electrify large commercial airliners. To meet this need, a team of MIT engineers is now creating a 1-MW motor, to be powered by a battery, or fuel cell, that could be a key stepping stone toward electrifying larger aircraft. <https://chargedevs.com>newswire>

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