

**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.



First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021~ 9:30AM WORSHIP  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF LOVE)**

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

**PRELUDE** Two Christmas Carol Settings Gordon Young (1919-1998)  
"JOY TO THE WORLD"  
"THE FIRST NOWELL"

**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  
**O God, this Advent season is a time when your light radiates through the world. Fill us with your light as though we were lighthouses on the shore. Use us to guide others. Set us aflame with your light as though we were candles, even candles in a storm. Enable us to push aside all forms of darkness. Be present with us as we await the One who is the world's light and as we say the prayer Christ taught...**

**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** "BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL" No. 158

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE**

*(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** "MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD" John Purifoy (b. 1952)  
*Peace be unto you, do not be afraid for you have found favor with your God.  
You shall bear a son, the Son of the Most High.  
His name will be great, and his kingdom will never end.  
My soul magnifies the Lord my God, my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,  
for Holy is His name for evermore.  
He has shown His strength with His holy arm,  
He has filled the hungry poor with joy and gladness.  
He has scattered the proud and the humble, lifted up.  
His mighty hand has done great things.  
-- Luke 1:30-55 (adapted)*  
**First Parish Sanctuary Choir**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Pastor Dan Hollis

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 1:39-55 N.T. page 49 Scott Stevens

**SERMON** "BLESSING THE NEXT GENERATION" Rev. Eric Dupee

**RESPONSE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS** "WERE YOU THERE ON THAT CHRISTMAS NIGHT?"  
Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)  
*Were you there on that Christmas night, when the world was filled with a holy light?  
Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth?  
Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?  
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night?  
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth?*  
**Sweet Spirit**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** No. 34

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "FOR AGES WOMEN HOPED AND PRAYED" No. 172

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

**POSTLUDE** "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING" Arr., Gordon Young



**THIS WEEK**

<b>Today, Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am Worship/Advent IV 4pm A Service of Lessons and Carols at Trinity Church 6pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<b>Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup></b>	8am Zumba
<b>Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup></b>	8:30am Yoga 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
<b>Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	8am Cardio/Strength 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 7pm Nativity Bible Study
<b>Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	8am Zumba
<b>Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:30pm Family Worship-Mitten Tree</b> <b>8pm Candlelight Worship</b>
<b>Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am Worship

**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 today's 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:** Electric vehicle updates: Ford has increased its production of new 2022 all electric Ford F-150 pickup trucks because of unexpected demand. Current reservations stand at approximately 130,000. Globally Tesla vehicle deliveries reached almost 500,000 in 2020. Tesla produced and sold 237,823 vehicles between January 1-September 20, 2021 in the US. [www.tesla.com](http://www.tesla.com) [www.ford.com](http://www.ford.com)



**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*



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