

First Presbyterian Church

19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont



November 27, 2022

1st Sunday in Advent: Hope

GATHERING

Today's hymns are from the purple Glory to God hymnal.

Gathering on Abenaki Lands

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Lee Aura Bonimico
Peggy Hood

Call to Worship – by Tim Graves (inspired by Daniel 3:1)

LEADER: We call out to you “Be the God we dream!”

ALL: You respond by being the God you are.

LEADER: We discuss you and define you and expect of you.

ALL: But you unravel our expectations and definitions.

LEADER: We seek to limit & control – putting you in a box of our making.

ALL: You turn our boxes upside down.

LEADER: We seek now.

ALL: You bid us wait.

LEADER: We seek obvious salvation.

ALL: You send a child

LEADER: We seek clear-cut and easy answers.

ALL: You give us hope. Upside down divinity, give us the strength to resist a culture of greed, of haves, and have-nots. Turn our eyes away from the gold statues, our idols of selfishness and fear. Help us to let go of our expectations of you so that we might be ready to welcome the child who is on the way. Amen.

✠ Opening Hymn #97 Watchman Tell Us of the Night

1. Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are. Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.
2. Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends. Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3. Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn. Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet hoe. Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Prayer of Confession:

LEADER: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.

ALL: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the spirit enable you to grow in love.

LEADER: Amen

All: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: To the we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

LEADER: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the spirit enable you to grow in love.

ALL: Amen

Words of Forgiveness

Congregational Response: Iona Gloria
Gloria, gloria, gloria
In excelsis Deo
(God to God in the highest.)

Passing the Peace

Please help with Covid prevention by waving, making the peace sign, acknowledging with prayer hands, or by other methods of passing the peace that limit contact and maintain distancing.

LISTENING

Prayer for Illumination: Gabriel's Song

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:3-5
Luke 1:39-55 (the Magnificat)

Prompting:

RESPONDING

✠ Hymn: **If In Your Heart, Ana Hernandez**

**If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,
Then love can once again become a child on earth.**

Announcements

Reflection Music

Prayers of the People *Finishing with the Lord's Prayer*

✠ **Closing Hymn #88. O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Benediction

Postlude

✠ Please rise in body or spirit as you are able!

Rev. Simon Ruth de Voil is preaching today.
Today Peggy Hood is our worship leader.
Alison Cerutti will be making music today.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE #734910-A.

Reverend Simon Ruth de Voil is an ordained interfaith/interspiritual minister, trained to be a sacred presence outside the conventions of traditional religion. As a sacred musician, spiritual mentor and worship leader he incorporates chant, ritual, storytelling and mindful practice to create a space for profound connection and sacred witness. Simon provides music for worship, ceremony, and prayer in a wide variety of churches and non-religious spiritual communities. He particularly loves to create music for meditation, healing services, and rites of passage.

First Sunday in Advent - Hope

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's time and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the shadows of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait for Christ's return, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Today is the first day of the church's liturgical season - the first Sunday of Advent. The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Prayers – Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week we invite you to keep Rachel Lissor in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for her and her presence in this congregation. Hold her in the palm of your hand and let her feel your love. Give her the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face whatever challenges may arise.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian church or other ministry within the Presbytery of Northern New England, each week we ask to keep one of Presbytery's participants in our thoughts and prayers. This week, we pray for the New England GLOW, and Jen Slater.

November Birthdays

6th Joseph Casadonte
9th Julie Atwood
9th Raymond Thomas
10th Jean Milne
11th Neil Aschnewitz
11th Russell Loomis
13th Chris Bailey
13th Martha Macdonald
14th Elizabeth Hellinger
15th Linda Aschnewit
15th Chris Thibault
19th Kim Paterson
20th Cathy Frey
21st Kate Paterson
22nd Damien Leighty
23rd Angela Leighty
24th Tom Koch
24th Josh LaFlower
26th Judy Johnson
28th Maurice Fortier

November Anniversaries

1st Sue & Rob Strachan
15th Tom & Molly Paulger
26th Steve & Wendy Dale
27th Linda & Russ Loomis
29th Sharon & Ken Lunde

December Birthdays

1st Jan Fortier
3rd Brian Emmons

Our Church Session (Board) & Deacons

Chris Fuhrmeister, Clerk – Personnel and Worship
Roxanne Casadonte - Outreach
Dottye Ricks – Outreach
Lee Aura Bonamico - Outreach
Cathy Jamieson – Finance and Faith Development
Peg Lawson – Worship & Fellowship
Diane Nichols-Fleming – Finance
Jim Nichols-Fleming – Outreach and Personnel
Dan Krymkowski - Worship
Board of Deacons - Sylvia Mitton, Chairperson

OUR CHURCH

Treasurer – Kathy Adams
Pianist / Organist – Alison Cerutti / Dan Krymkowski
Administrative Assistant – Cindy Hooker
Choir Director – Peg Lawson
Custodian – Jennifer Milne
Elder of the Month – Cathy Jamieson
Deacon of the Month – Sandy Quinlan & Lucy Hallock

To Contact the Church

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