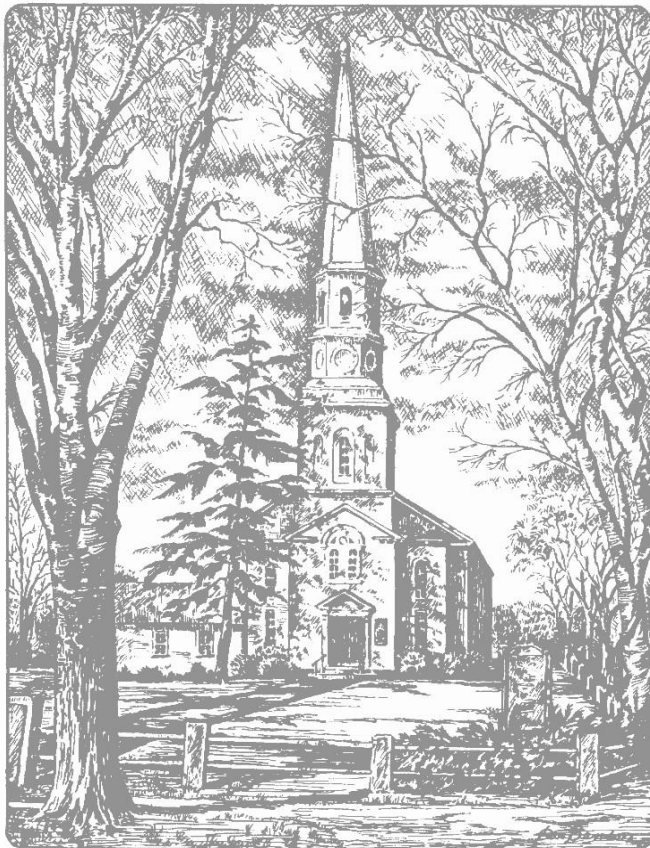


**The First Congregational Church of Harwich**  
United Church of Christ



*A beacon at the crossroads since 1747*  
*Open & Affirming since 2001*

697 Main Street  
Harwich, Massachusetts 02645  
(508) 432-1053

November 28, 2021



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOPE!

November 28, 2021 ~ 10:30 am

*We welcome you to our worship service before God! We hope that you will make yourself comfortable. Please wear a face covering during the service. If you are a regular, we ask you to please wear nametags. We hope you enjoy our worship service!*

“+” = please stand as you are able.

**First Church welcomes Tom Jahnke as our Lector today!**

**PRELUDE**            *I Wonder As I Wander*

arr. Mark Hayes

*Wassail, Wassail*

arr. Chip Davis

**Marcia Hempel, piano**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rev. Susan Thomas**

**HAPPY ADVENTUS & WELCOME TO THE INN**

**Rev. Susan Thomas**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & READING**

**The Rampasard Family**

One: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope. Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this Light shine in our

hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Hope awaken us to prepare now for Jesus to be born into our world and into our hearts. Amen.

*(Light the First Purple Candle)*

**ALL: There IS room in this Inn, this House for the Holy!**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the season when God's Messengers tell us...

**All: that something sacred wants to be born.**

One: For something sacred needs to be born:

**All: born from what is and what might be.**

One: But the baby needs a home...

**All: Let us prepare a home in our hearts for the birth of the sacred. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: God, we confess before You those places in our hearts where we have refused You entrance:

**All: People we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt You, ourselves and others.**

One: Come to us in the Light of Christ. Shine on those places hidden from You.

**All: Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us.**

*(please take a moment of silent, personal confession)*

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God's grace to us. Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

+HYMN PH #103 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**KIDS MOMENT**

**Rev. Susan Thomas**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- **Isaiah 11:1-4a** (Pew Bible pg. 558)
- **John 1:1-5; 3:16-17** (Pew Bible pg. 862, 864)

**ANTHEM**

*Oh Shout For Joy*

Keith Getty

**First Church Choir**

**SERMON** “**Santa Claus (Jesus) Is Coming To Town**”

**Rev. Susan Thomas**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Sung Response (twice)

**Make of my heart a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for hope to live and grow.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

Sung Response (twice)  
**Make of my heart a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for hope to live and grow.**

**OFFERING**

*Everyone is invited to place their Offerings to God in plates that will be collected from the pews during the service, or to send the Offerings by mail to the church office.*

**Invitation**

**Anthem**                      *Creation Sings the Fathers Song*  
Keith Getty  
**Marcia Hempel and Tom Jahnke, Soloist**

**+Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**+Prayer of Dedication**

One: The Star Light of Commitment shining above, still lights and strengthens our hearts. Though the sky is dark and the moon is gone, the shining Star Light of Commitment stays on, like the golden lantern shimmering in our hearts. Amen.

+HYMN PH #110 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**BENEDICTION**

One: May God's Door of Welcome  
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ's humble first dwelling  
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into  
more possibility and hope than you can imagine,  
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.

May it be so for us.

May it be so for this church. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Jupiter's Theme (Bringer of Jollity)*

Gustav Holst

†††

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

Dedicated to the glory of God by John Leathers. His wife, Linda's favorite Oceana roses were chosen in loving memory of her birthday on the 26th. She is remembered by all for her happy and smiling demeanor, her kind and helping spirit, and her generous heart.

**PRAYER LIST**

*We encourage parishioners to call or email our Pastor or Office Administrator in our office by midweek with any new prayers so these can be printed and lifted up at Sunday worship.*

**Solace & Peace:** We bring before our Creator- loved ones, friends, neighbors- known and unknown to us- who have passed away. We also pray for God to comfort any who are in need and/or facing difficult trials. We pray

and ask God to draw very close, and to raise up the right people to be ministers and to be a genuine comfort and support during times of trial and/or grief.

**Healing & Comfort:** For the six adults and children killed and the more than 40 people injured at the Waukesha, WI Christmas parade; John Linehan's friend Cynthia; Ava; Mary Ellen M.; Libby C.; Nancy Segall's friend Sal; Mary Ann as she receives chemo for her blood disease; Bianca's daughter Toni Lynn; Julie's friend, Jack; DeeDee's relatives; Joe B's daughter, daughter-in-law and nephew.

**Joys & Celebrations:** The Linehan's daughter is expecting a baby!; Emily & Edwin are moving into their home very soon.

**Community & World:** Poverty; near homeless and homeless; living through Covid-19 and its variants; the hungry; ill; unemployed; school employees and students; those suffering with addictions; anxiety and depression; children & adults living with disabilities; all medical staff; first responders and caregivers; military personnel, victims of racism; immigrants and children; a sustainable earth; and peace and justice in our homes, our communities, this great nation and the world we share.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Please check our **website** at [firstchurchofharwich.org](http://firstchurchofharwich.org) for *Calendar, Music, and Beacon Newsletters*. For weekly updates sign up for the **Midweek Message** at [firstchurchharwich@comcast.net](mailto:firstchurchharwich@comcast.net). "Like" and share us on Facebook @ First Congregational Church of Harwich and subscribe to First Church Harwich's YouTube page.

## THIS WEEK

11/29 – 10 am – Bells Rehearsal – PH

12/1 – 10 am – Fellowship Meeting - PH

12/1 – 12-1:30 pm – Advent Bible Study – PH and Zoom; 6:30-7:30 pm (Zoom only)

12/1 – 2 pm – 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Meeting – PH

12/1 – 4:30 pm – Chorus Rehearsal – Sanctuary

12/2 – 5 pm – Harwich Women's Chorus – Sanctuary

12/3 – 4 pm – AA Meeting – Parish House

12/4 – 3 pm – Advent Christmas Concert – Sanctuary

12/5 – 10:30 am – Communion Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- This year's Advent Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. There will be choral and instrumental music, poetry and readings. All are welcome. Music directed by Marcia Hempel.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Historic Records Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in Pastor Sue's office in Broadbrooks.

## **CHURCH MINISTERS**

*Rev. Susan Thomas, Pastor*

*Members of the Congregation, Ministers*

*Marcia Hempel, Music Director & Organist*

*Lynn Carver, Bell Choir Director*

*Lynn Carver, Moderator*

*Tom Jahnke, Treasurer*

*Emily Kosoff, Clerk*

*Betty Hindle, pro-tem, Chair of Christian Education*

*DeeDee Dyer and Lynn Carver, Co-Chairs of Deacons*

*Nancy Segall, Chair of Fellowship*

*Dawn Brooks, Chair of Mission*

*Jeep Mashoke, Chair of Trustees*

*Kimberly Perry, Office Administrator*

*Paul Frederickson, Sexton*

## **CHURCH COVENANT**

Bound together as a Christian Church and depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us, we covenant together to walk in all our ways, according to the rule of the Gospel in mutual love and respect to one another to strive to carry out the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.

## **OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

We bid unqualified welcome to all who seek to know God and encourage full participation of all members in the life of the First Congregational Church of Harwich, a local congregation of the United Church of Christ. We respect, support, and lovingly encourage people of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical or mental ability to join us on our journey of faith.