



AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
AN EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME TO ALL!

Please join us following worship for Coffee Hour!

Prayers, Joys, and Concerns

Prayers for Edna Elle; Betsy Gates; Chris Scott; Kelly Kenison Falkner;
Kayla's brother Matthew; and Myrna Prevost.

Today's Participants

Lay Reader: Abby Charbeneau

Ushers: Peggy Scott & Cindy Rogers

Acolyte: Elisabeth & Freddie Yohe

Advent Candles: Becca, Kevin, Elisabeth, Freddie & Hannah Yohe

Flowers are kindly donated by Sally Bird in memory of Kerry.



November 27, 2022

Pastor: Rev. Jed Rardin

Interim Minister: Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo

Pianist: Abigail Charbeneau

Music Director: Sue Berlenbach

Memorial Bells Choir Director: Carlene Ruesenberg

Director of Christian Education: Alison Nyhan

27 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301 | 603-224-2521 | www.southchurchconcord.org

Welcome to South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! Whoever you are, whatever your faith tradition, whatever creed you profess, whatever your age, ability, race, sexual orientation, or gender expression, you are welcome here!

PRELUDE *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come with Simple Gift*

WORDS OF WELCOME

REFLECTING THE SACRED

(The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.)

OPEN MEDITATION

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

**Upon this moment, upon this people, upon this place the holy comes.
And sacred knowing brings sacred being for sacred doing of God's plan.**

UNISON PRAYER

Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Hope, we give you thanks for this holy moment together. As we take in the hope you offer, may we be a reflection of your light, expanding the sacred time of "right now" into the sacred time of "always and for all time." Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *A Time for Advent* by Stewart Harris

SCRIPTURE Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON Sacred Time

*HYMN #122 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Please join me: **We covenant with you, our new-found sibling, to walk in the ways of**

Jesus, to become with you a people of peace and reconciliation in a world of violence and estrangement; to pray for you in your times of need and to celebrate with you in your moments of joy; to cultivate a spirit of Sabbath among us wherein life is measured in the fullness of time, rather than in the rush toward accomplishment; to share with you our time, our hopes, our stories, our questions, and our help; to muster our courage with you, that together we might become the church Christ intends: strong in the Spirit, bold in faith, open in welcome, glorious in diversity, and committed in service. Amen.

*HYMN #119 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

AN INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Virtual offering plate: bit.do/southchurch: other options include using the "Donate" button on the website, or mailing/dropping off a check to the office.



OFFERTORY *Crystal Sky* by Ola Gjeilo

*SUNG RESPONSE *(to the tune of "What Child Is This?" Hymn #148)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God all heavens and the earth, reflecting the sacred story. This, this is Christ the One who mirrors hope for all of us. Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Word of time eternal.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #112 *Keep Awake and Ready*

*BENEDICTION

When you see lights twinkle,
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,
let these be signs that the Christ light is revealed
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence
**is poring more hope into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us.**

This means you are already reflecting the sacred.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Hope. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*