

First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

First Congregational Church- Bristol

November 28, 2021 ~ 10:00am

First Sunday of Advent

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Meditation

“When one door closes another opens. Expect that new door to reveal even greater wonders and glories, and surprises. Feel yourself grow with every experience. And look for the reason for it.”

~Eileen Caddy

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude

“Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

Lighting Advent Candle

Hope

Steere & Johnson Family

*First voice: On this first Sunday in Advent we light this candle and name it Hope.
(Lights first purple candle.)*

*When we light it, we feel excited. We are looking forward to something special.
What can it be? When is it going to happen? When we light this candle, we feel
hopeful as we wait in this season.*

Second voice: This candle reminds us that the prophet Isaiah was longing for God's presence.

*First voice: It reminds us that the people in the early church were longing for God's
presence too.*

*Second voice: This candle is a symbol for our own longing for God to be with us. We wait in
hope for God to surprise us and break into our lives.*

*All: O God, come, travel with us through Advent.
Give us courage to spread hope in the world. Amen.*

Song "Come O Long -Expected Jesus," NCH #122 (verse one)

***Call to Worship**

One: Advent is a season of waiting.

Many: But we do not wait alone.

One: God is with us.

**Many: We gather with those who have seen the signs,
heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.**

One: God is birthing Hope into this waiting world.

Many: Let us worship with hearts open to Hope.

***Hymn** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" PH# 105

***Prayer of Invocation**

We enter, O God, into this season of preparation and anticipation, longing to skip ahead and celebrate the coming of your light into our darkness – but you would have us first slow down, breathe deeply, and prepare ourselves to receive your gift. We know that your Holy Spirit comes in powerful and unexpected ways, and so we pray we might recognize you moving in and through the season. In Christ's name and in Christ's way we pray in hope... Amen.

A Time for the Children

THE WORD OF GOD TO US

The Hebrew Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16 Sandra Patterson

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!

The Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36 Rev. Deborah Tate Breault

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation

will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!

The Sermon

“Ready or Not”

Rev. Deborah Tate Breault

Hymn

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

PH#111

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Prayers of the People

Sharing Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

Our 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of our Gifts to God

Invitation

The Offertory

***The Doxology #515 PH**

Old Hundredth

**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.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, implant within us the kind of generosity that surprises our spirits, enlivens our faith, strengthens our mission. Permit us through our giving to prepare the way for One whose realm and reign we honor. Amen.

(Resource: Hear our Prayer. Words of worship: resources for church & home ISBN 0-8298-0899-X)

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

PH #109

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

“Halleluja”

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolytes

Postlude

“Ciaconna in C”

Dietrich Buxtehude

(Please be seated for the Postlude - Thank you)

~ Our celebrant today is the Reverend Deborah Tate Breault ~

~ Our Organist / Music Director is Mr. Adam Schneider ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Sandra Patterson ~

~ Our greeter today is Jack Ringland ~



*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments
following worship in the DeWolf Room*

Announcements

- December 1, 2021 Facility Meeting 7pm ZOOM
- December 1, 2021 FCC Choir Practice 7pm (Every Wednesday night)
- December 5, 2021 Alternative Christmas Giving Event 11-1pm DeWolf Room
- December 7, 2021 Prayer Shawl Circle 6:30pm ZOOM
- December 9, 2021 Deacons Meeting 7pm ZOOM
- December 11, 2021 FoodFest /Mini Bazaar DeWolf Room
- December 16, 2021 Church Council Meeting 7pm ZOOM
- December 18, 2021 Cookie Walk / Bake sale/ Mini Bazaar DeWolf Room
- December 19, 2021 Sunday Worship and Children Christmas Pageant
- December 24, 2021 Family Candle Light Christmas Eve Worship 6pm
- December 26, 2021 Old fashion hymn Sing Worship

Please visit our web site for more information about the Church and Events
At the First Congregational Church in Bristol, RI: go to **fccbristol.org**

Church Office Hours are Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3pm

Pastoral Office Hours Thursday & Friday 9:30am – 1:00pm

You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Deborah directly.

Private office line 401/253-3680 or cell 401/712-2651 or e-mail at revdtb@fccbristol.org

Church location 300 High Street • mailing address 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 401/253-7288