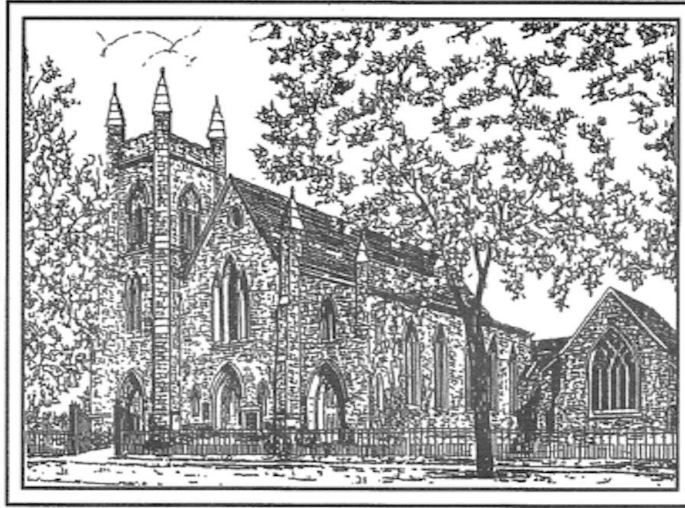


# First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Founded in 1680

*Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*

## **First Congregational Church in Bristol**

December 26, 2021 ~ 10:00am

First Sunday after Christmas

### **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

#### **Meditation**

“There can be no Kingdom of God in the world without the  
Kingdom of God in our hearts.”

Albert Sweitzer

#### **Gathering Music**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Ring of the Bell**

#### **Prelude**

*“Allegro Vivace”*

Handel

#### **Bringing Forth the Light of Christ**

Acolytes

#### **\*Call to Worship**

One: The people who lived in shadows have seen a great light;

**Many: Those who dwell in a land of deep gloom, on them has light shined.**

One: For to us a child is born,

**Many: To us a child is given;**

One: And the government will be upon this child’s shoulder,

**Many: And the child’s name shall be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Parent, Bringer of Peace.”**

One: Of the increase of this government and of peace there will be no end.

**Many: The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.**

**\*Hymn**

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

NCH #12

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Most gracious God: We greet the dawning of this day with shouts of Noel! For now is born among us the bringer of peace, whose name affords us cause for joyful celebration and gives the nations the sure knowledge of redeeming love. Enter now our celebration. Laugh and sing with us as we rejoice in the carols of jubilation. May our songs and prayers and shouts resound to the glory of your holy name and honor the name of Jesus, our infant Savior. Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD TO US**

**The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 2:1-20

Caroline Jacobus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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!**

**Old Fashioned Hymn Sing**

Bob Evans

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayers of the People

#### Prayer with One Voice

Out of the noise and glitter and ho-ho-ho of the world's Christmas, we have come away, O God, into this hour in your presence. Help us to discover here the true meaning and joy that lie beneath the surface of the holy day. Help us to see beyond the Baby in the manger to the man Jesus became, to test our lives by teachings and example. Enable us to see beyond the human Jesus to your own incredible love reaching out to us through him, giving wisdom and power for the journeys of our lives. Then send us out to spread the word that you have been born among us. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

#### 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 and 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

"Go tell it on the Mountain"

NCH # 154

#### \*Benediction

#### \*Benediction Response

"Halleluja"

NCH #236

#### Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolytes

#### Postlude

"Allegro Maestoso"

Handel

(Please be seated for the Postlude - Thank you)

~ Worship Leader today is Bob Evans ~

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

~ The lay liturgist today is Caroline Jacobus~



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

### **Announcements**

- December 31, 2021 Office Closed
- January 2, 2022 Sunday worship w / Sacrament of Communion
- January 4, 2022 Prayer Shawl Circa 6:30pm Zoom
- January 5, 2022 Facility meeting 7pm ZOOM
- January 12, 2022 FoodFest
- January 13, 2022 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Zoom
- January 20, 2022 Church Council meeting 7pm ZOOM
- January 22, 2022 Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House
- January 30, 2022 Annual Budget meeting open to all church members after 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](mailto:revdtb@fccbristol.org)

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