



## The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

### Introduction

One: The prophet Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and make the rough places plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock.

Many: **This Advent, we seek God, the shepherd.**

**Let us light the candle of peace.**

**Shine on us, O God of justice;**

**Guide our path through gloom of night;**

**Bear within us Wisdom's glory;**

**Come to us, O Christ the Light.** (candle lit)

### \*Hymn

*"Now Bless the God of Israel"*

NCH #110

### The Old Testament Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Bob Evans

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting, for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven, for God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies, but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of God's glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from that light.

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 Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Bob Evans

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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!**

### Children's Moment

**\*Hymn** *“Lord of All Hopefulness”* PH #217

**A Sermon Message** *“There Is Hope in Waiting”* Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

**Moment of Silence**

**Sharing of 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.**

**Prayer Response**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

**Offertory Invitation**

**The Offertory** *“Trust in the Lord”* R. Dilworth

**\*The Doxology** PH #515 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 Litany**

One: Hope is a light, hope is a light to show the way,  
**Many: Today, we light the candle of hope.**  
One: Peace is a prayer, peace is a prayer that starts with me,  
**Many: Today, we light the candle of peace.**  
One: Joy is a song, joy is a song for all to sing,  
**Many: Today, we light the candle of joy.**  
One: Love is a gift, love is a gift our hearts can give,  
**Many: Today, we light the candle of love.**  
One: Jesus is born, Jesus is born in us today,  
**Many: Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

**Hymn** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* NCH #43

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** *Amen, amen,  
Amen, amen, amen.*

**Carrying the Light of Christ into the World**

**\*Postlude** *“His Hands”* T. Brand

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~  
~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~  
~ Our lay liturgist today is Bob Evans ~  
~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~

*Please join us for fellowship hour following Worship*



### **Prayer List for Sunday, December 8, 2024**

As a congregation, we lift up prayers today and throughout the week for the following people.

#### **For concerns in the world:**

For all who are living with or died from Aids

#### **For those in need of healing on our prayer list:**

Barbara Malony, Barbara Ringland's mother

Mary Costa, who had surgery at Boston Children's Hospital

Mark

Mary Aberg for her Shoulder Surgery

Annette Moren, who is having surgery

Jeannine Marshall, Charlotte Burnham's cousin, who has cancer but is improving

Jane Texada, a childhood friend of Sug Grant, who is mourning the loss of her husband

Fred Thornton, a Friend of the Burnham Family

Stephen

Jacob Johnson in Seattle and his Girlfriend Emma who is Under the Sea in a submarine.

Kathy, Beverly Larson's cousin, who is recovering after a hospitalization

Charlie

Ken Latham in Leicester, MA, who started chemo last Thursday for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma

Fred Z. in CT

Those who have lost their way that they may have wisdom, courage, and strength

Harriet

Lola, Carolina Bailey's sister with stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer

Ryan

Donna Castiglicgo, who is recovering from surgery

Mark E., who has an aggressive form of prostate cancer

Luybov, Nikita's grandmother

Fred Davis, who has stomach cancer

Muriel Smith

Charlotte Griffith

Bob and Sally Evans

Sue Moreira

Barbara and Jack Ringland

Kellie and Juan Morales's daughter

Bruce C., who is in physical rehab, and Pat P. and her husband Tom, all friends of Ed Wiacek

Peter Leiche, a friend of Sue Moreira, who has cancer  
Jamie's health and for his mother Katelyn  
Simone Silveri  
Caregivers in our congregation

**For those who have died**

Joe Herman, Nephew of Sug Grant

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

Susan Morettini 12/08  
Melissa Fournier 12/09  
Susan Butler 12/18  
Ruth Fisher 12/21

Barbara Ringland 12/10  
George Roach 12/18  
Diane Swire 12/22 Rev.

Eleanor Ingraham 12/13  
Meriel Smith 12/21  
Nancy Soukup 12/27



**What's on the Church Calendar**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>December 08, 2024</b><br>December 08, 2024 | <b>Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Advent 10:00am</b><br>Sunday, Bristol Christmas Festival Crafts Fair 12:00am-5:00pm<br>(DeWolf Room, Christian Education Wing) |
| December 10, 2024                             | Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm DeWolf Room  |
| December 11, 2024                             | Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)   |
| December 12, 2024                             | Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm  |
| <b>December 15, 2024</b>                      | <b>Sunday Worship: Third Sunday of Advent 10:00am</b><br>(dedication of Keith Reynolds print in the DeWolf Room following the service)                             |
| December 17, 2024                             | Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7:00pm  |
| December 18, 2024                             | Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm (Dimond Room)   |
| <b>December 22, 2024</b>                      | <b>Sunday Worship: Christmas Pageant 10:00am</b>   |
| <b>December 24, 2024</b>                      | <b>Christmas Eve Worship 6:00pm</b>  |
| <b>December 29, 2024</b>                      | <b>Sunday Worship 10:00am</b>  |

Please visit our website for more information about the Church  
And Events go to **fccbristol.org**



**“Invitation to Share Time, Talent, and Treasure”**

When you give to First Congregational Church, you make possible our ministries that serve all God's people. Your gifts share the love of Jesus all year long. The act of giving is our personal expression of worship and also keeps our church financially healthy. Stewardship is not payment for services rendered. It is an act of faith and devotion to God. You may go to the following link to give now:  
<https://fccbristol.org/support-us/>.



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

Office e-mail address: [office@FCCBristol.org](mailto:office@FCCBristol.org)

**Pastoral Office Hours** Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 1pm

You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Nancy.

Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail [office@FCCBristol.org](mailto:office@FCCBristol.org)

*NCH = New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) and PH = Pilgrim Hymnal (red hymnal)*

*Sources and Credits: Hymn tune names - as well as composers of the music and authors of the text - are listed in the hymnals with each hymn. CCLI License #1958911 and One License.Net #A-728124.*

*Sources: Prayers for this liturgy were written by or adapted from the following: Harry Disher, in Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2004–2005, United Church of Canada, <https://www.united-church.ca/worship>, re:Worship: Advent 2 C; Rev. Susan A. Blain, To Dream God's Dream: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent, United Church of Christ, <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-a/ace/advent-service-prayers.html>, re:Worship: Advent 2 C; Worship Trick No.67, Johnny Baker's Worship Tricks, re:Worship: Opening Litany: Waiting, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>, re:Worship: offering; and Daniel Charles Damon, Fields of Mercy. Words © 2007 Hope Publishing Company, <http://www.hopepublishing.com/>, re:Worship: Search results for hope.*

The 2024 Bristol Christmas Festival & Grand Illumination

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL at Unity Park  
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
500 Wood St., Bristol RI

TREE LIGHTING at The Burnside Building  
5:30 p.m. Entertainment begins  
6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting  
400 Hope St., Bristol RI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL at Unity Park  
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 8TH**

- CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL- 12p-6p - Unity Park
- CRAFT & GIFT FAIR - 12p-5p - First Congregational Church - High St
- CULINARY MARKET - 12p-5p - at Pivotal Brewery - Unity Park



# *Alternative Christmas Giving Project*

Alternative Christmas Giving December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

Since 2014, First Congregational Church in Bristol has invited area nonprofit service organizations to share information about their important work and to offer charitable donations as an alternative for those who may not want physical items as holiday gifts. On December 7 and 8, 2024, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Alternative Christmas Giving event will be held at First Congregational Church in conjunction with the craft fair portion of the community-wide Bristol Christmas Festival. Between the selection of distinctive gift items from local artisans and the opportunity to honor friends and family with charitable contributions, there are sure to be enough gift options to fulfill everyone's wish list!

Representatives from nine 501c3 nonprofit organizations will be present to share information about their missions and their critical work in the areas of health, social services, education, hunger, and the arts. The Deacons of First Congregational Church hope you will visit and donate generously as part of your holiday gift giving. If you are unable to attend this event, donations in the form of a check may be sent to the church office to be forwarded to the organization(s) you wish to support.

10<sup>th</sup> annual Alternative Christmas Giving event will feature:

- The Tomorrow Fund** (providing support to children with cancer and their families)
- East Bay Food Pantry** (decreasing hunger and increasing nutrition in the East Bay)
- Heifer International** (ending poverty and hunger in a sustainable way through agriculture)
- Matthew Patton Foundation** (providing education and advocacy to help active duty and Veteran service members achieve their best mental health)
- R.E.S.T.** (Resources, Education, Support, Together – recovery services)
- SHARE Foundation** (providing adaptive assistive technology to people living with disabilities)
- Community String Project** (providing affordable and accessible string music lessons)
- Sojourner House** (providing culturally sensitive support, advocacy, housing, and education for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking)
- East Bay Community Action Program** (providing high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health and human services to assist people to achieve their fullest potential)
- First Congregational Church** of Bristol (No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.)



First Congregational Church presents its 33rd Annual

# Christmas Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

10am to 12noon

Get a box for You,  
Get a box for a Gift!

Large Assortment of  
Homemade Holiday Cookies  
and Fudge \$ 15 lb.

Plus, Mini-Bazaar:  
Homemade items

Coffee, Tea, Mulled Cider, or  
Hot Chocolate With 2 Cookies \$ 5

Coat Drive! Donate 1 or more gently used Coats  
and get \$5 off your total purchase of cookies!  
(With Minimum of 1 pound)

First Congregational Church  
300 High Street, Bristol

# COAT DRIVE

Children's

December 21, 2024

Please look through your closet to see if you have coats/jackets you do not wear or out grown of or don't want any more.

Lady's

Let us pass them on to people in need of a coat.

Men's

Lets help others

For the month of December 2024

THIS SEASON WE'RE

## Blooming & Giving



**STOP&SHOP**

This season, let your purchase do more. Head over to our selected Stop & Shop location this month and purchase a specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet. Every bouquet sold will send us a \$1 donation!

[stopandshop.2givelocal.com](http://stopandshop.2givelocal.com)  
Bloomin' 4 Good Program

**Benefiting:**



First Congregational Church in Bristol  
281 High Street  
Bristol, RI 02809  
O: 401-253-7288  
Office @ FCCBristol.org

**At This Stop & Shop Location:**

**STOP&SHOP**  
605 Metacom Ave.  
Bristol, RI 02809

## "Remembering Sisters"

Quilt Raffle

78" x 91"

Tickets sell for \$1 each  
or 6 tickets for \$5



On sale at the First Congregational Church office, after Sunday services, at the Harvest Moon Bazaar Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and by many church members.

This quilt was made by Sandra Reynolds, a member of the First Congregational Church in Bristol RI.

Fabrics in this Quilt were purchased in Sisters, Oregon, a town known as the "Quilting Capital" of the Northwest and the host of one of the largest Quilt shows on the west coast every July. Sandra and her husband Keith had headed to the Northwest as Keith had grown up there.

The fabric colors chosen reflected the beautiful colors of early fall that Sandra saw. Thus, the name reflects that wonderful town of Sisters in Oregon!





# Poinsettia Plants Order Form 2024

First Congregational Church  
281 High Street, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

Fill in #1, OR #2 OR a combination of both

**#1 I would like to donate** \_\_\_\_\_ # (Quantity) of my plant(s).

Is there someone you know who should be included in our plant ministry?

\*\* Name of shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

AND / OR

**#2 I will take** \_\_\_\_\_ # of my plant (s) home after the service.

*Please fill in below for each plant you purchase so we may list it in the Christmas bulletin.*

### Please Print

Please let me know which <u>In memory of</u> or <u>in honor of</u> or ?	Given by:

(If you need more room, please use the back of this paper.)

The DEADLINE for orders is Dec 17th . Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Checks should be made payable to the First Congregational Church and sent in with this form. Please note "Christmas Flowers" in the memo. Plants will be \$18.00 each.

Please send order form and check to First Congregational Church, 281 High Street, Bristol, RI 02809  
Any question please give me a call Barbara 401/253-7288

*THANK YOU*

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

