First Congregational Church of Wakefield NH
United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 29th, 2026
First Sunday of Advent

We are an Inclusive Faith Community.
All Are Welcomed and All Really Means ALL!



"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Desmond Tutu

Senior Pastor — Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.
Sunday Deacons—Ken Ballinger & Harriet Wilson
Greeters—Jeff Hebert, Linda Messer, Nancy & Jeff Perkins
Tech Team—Donna Ackerman, Gloria Ballinger, Kaylee Fogg,
Nathan Fogg, Carol Jeffery & Barry Truhn
Organists—Cindy Eggleston & Beverly Woods
Voice Choir Director—Cindy Eggleston
Bell Choir Director—Kevin Connell
Guitarist—Buddy Dee & Evan McDougal
Spirit Squad Coordinators—George Ackerman, Buddy Dee & Jo Szirbik
Exterior/Interior Floral Décor – Rachel White

Welcome to Sunday Worship!

(Please stand if able. Bold content is read in unison.)*

Greeting & Reply
Introit & Lighting of the Alter Candles
***Opening Hymn** *(see screen)* "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" HFG #169

Lighting of the Advent Candles *(see insert)* *The Szirbik & Hayford Families*

***Call to Worship** *MollyRose Szirbik*
One: In the long night, when fear presses close and the way ahead is hard to see, we turn our hearts toward God—the One who hears the cries of the weary and walks with those who struggle for freedom.
Many: We wait for your light, O God. We watch for your justice, and we long for your peace.

One: In our waiting, hope is already stirring: a spark that will not be extinguished, a promise taking root, a quiet courage rising among the people.
Many: Give us eyes to see your presence and hearts ready to trust your promise.

One: The days are coming, says the Lord, when righteousness will flourish and the land will yield its fruit; when the hungry will be fed, the forgotten welcomed, and every neighbor treated with dignity.
Many: Let justice roll down like waters, and peace flow like a mighty stream.

One: Keep awake, beloved. Lift your heads. Make room for the Holy One—not only in our prayers, but in our choices, our communities, and our care for one another.
Many: Strengthen us to challenge what harms, to heal what is broken, and to join the work of freedom and love.

One: When the road is long, God is with us. When our hands grow tired, the Spirit renews us. When hope feels small, the promise still stands.
Many: We will not give up on hope. We will not give up on justice. We will keep watch together.

One: Come, Lord Jesus, our hope and our salvation. Come among us with courage for the weary, shelter for the vulnerable, and good news for all who long to be free.
Many: Come, Lord Jesus. Make us ready to welcome you and faithful to serve your vision. Let us worship God together.

The Scripture Readings *(NRSVUE – see screen)* *Deacon*
Hebrew Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-33
Reader: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

Invocation

Spirit Squad Special Music "Winter Fire" *Calvin & Emmett Hayford*
composed by Brendan Graham, lyrics by Macdara Woods

Passing the Peace of Christ *(if you feel comfortable doing so)*

***Singing of The Lord's Prayer** *(see screen)*
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.

Announcements

Offering
Voice Choir Offertory Anthem "Advent Kyrie" by John Parker and David Lantz III

***Doxology** *(see screen)*

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.

Sermonic Hymn *(see screen)* "Angels We Have Heard on High" HFG #192
Message "For His Love and Faithfulness Toward Us"

Psalm 117:1-2 *(see screen)*
Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples!
2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!

Responding to God's Word Video (*see screen)* "O Come, Emmanuel" by Elaine Hagenberg

Prayers of the People

Benediction *(see screen)*
Postlude





Please join us for a wonderful coffee hour downstairs after Sunday Service. ALL ARE WELCOME!



HAPPENINGS & REMINDERS

- ***11/28, 11/29, 12/5 FCCW Books & Soft Goods Collection Underway Now!***
- ***12/4 Join FCCW at the Wakefield Holiday Stroll & Festival of Trees!***
- ***12/5 Free Community Dinner at St. John's Episcopal from 5-6:30 pm!***
- ***HYMN REQUESTS are needed and can be placed in the offering plates!***
- ***SPIRIT SQUAD SUNDAY takes place on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays!*****

*****If you are new to class, sign-up at churchoffice@fccwakefield.org!***

*****See Steeple Views & Happenings Emails for Updates & Details*****

- Voice Choir Practice: Mon @ 5:30 pm
- Adult Faith Formation: Tue @ noon
- Ukulele Club: 1st & 4th Tue @ 6 pm *(new dates!)*
- End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting: Wed @ 8 am
- CareGivers Support Group w/ Rev: 1st & 3rd Wed @ 9:30 am *(new day!)*
- Chair Yoga w/ Pam: Wed @ 10 am
- Evening Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Thur @ 5:30 pm *(Advent pause)*
- Outreach Meeting: 2nd Thur @ noon
- Parish Helper's Meeting: 2nd Thur @ 1 pm
- BLPOA Meeting: 2nd Thur @ 6 pm
- Sunday School: 2nd & 4th Sun
- Leadership Council Meeting: 3rd Sun following fellowship
- Diaconate Meeting: 4th Sun @ 11:30 am



Vrante M, Connie L, Paul & Carol D, Jan S, Gerard B, Lois B, Nancy B, Brian T, Cindy E, Our UCC Sister Church in Zimbabwe, Richwood LA Detainees: Mahsa Dehzadhamedani and her husband, Pouria Nazari, Selam Gebre Haile (from Eritrea) - and the many who's names we do not yet know.

Credits

1. Our songs are covered under our music license, One License #742268-A
2. Graphics: churchart.com
3. Responding to God's Word Video: "O Come, Emmanuel" by Elaine Hagenberg https://youtu.be/BilDhIeNrgU?is=b0xfP5gDg5y3_Ona

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