

The Word was given, the journey begun:
 Each step guided by Patience, Faith, and Hope.
 Be it Mary, Joseph, prophets or shepherds,
 Along the way the shelter sought and provided
 Replenishes both body and soul to start anew.
 The Word is given, the journey continues...



We Gather to Praise God

** indicates those who are able may stand*



WELCOME AND SHARING NEWS

ORGAN PRELUDE

Joseph is Well Married

Claude Balbastre

INTROIT #134 *sung by everyone, seated*

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
 God is with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Becky, Rob, Hannah, and Emily Polsin

Reader: "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'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Reader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

LIGHTING THE SHEPHERDS & PROPHETS CANDLES



SONG *sung by everyone, seated* (see insert) *He is Coming*



* GREETING ONE ANOTHER *please stand and greet those around you!*

* OPENING HYMN #151

The First Noel

At the last verse children through 12th grade adjourn to classes



* PRAYER OF RENEWAL *in unison*

Judy Pearsc

Almighty Father, as we journey closer to the celebration of Christmas, help us to keep watch for signs of your presence in everything we do. As the shepherds kept watch over their flock we know you keep watch over us. But we confess that we do not always see you. Guide us, we pray, to show your love to all people and to live to glorify you in every moment of our lives. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF JESUS (using "sins")



We Listen for God's Word



ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent arr. G.

Bozeman

SERVICE OF PRAYER

SHARING PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER — PASTORAL PRAYER — RESPONSE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

p

491

PSALTER READING

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

p. 41

* HYMN #154

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks



SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

p. 80

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

p. 68

SERMON

"Shalom: Revealing the Abnormal"

We Respond to God's Word

THE OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Bulletin cover illustration courtesy of Judy and Eric Pearson.
Advent Worship Team: Eileen Herring, Judy Pearson, Elliott Hancarik, and
Rev. Jim.

* DOXOLOGY #46 (*altered rhythm*) Thomas Ken (1674)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION *in unison*

WE SHARE IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ORGAN INTERLUDE

(SEE COMMUNION INSERT)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *spoken in unison*

**God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of
child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May
the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair.
May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the
world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet
which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice
in our community and around the world. Amen**

* HYMN #155 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

* BENEDICTION *by the pastor*

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #121 J. Berthier & Taize Community
sung together standing while holding hands

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

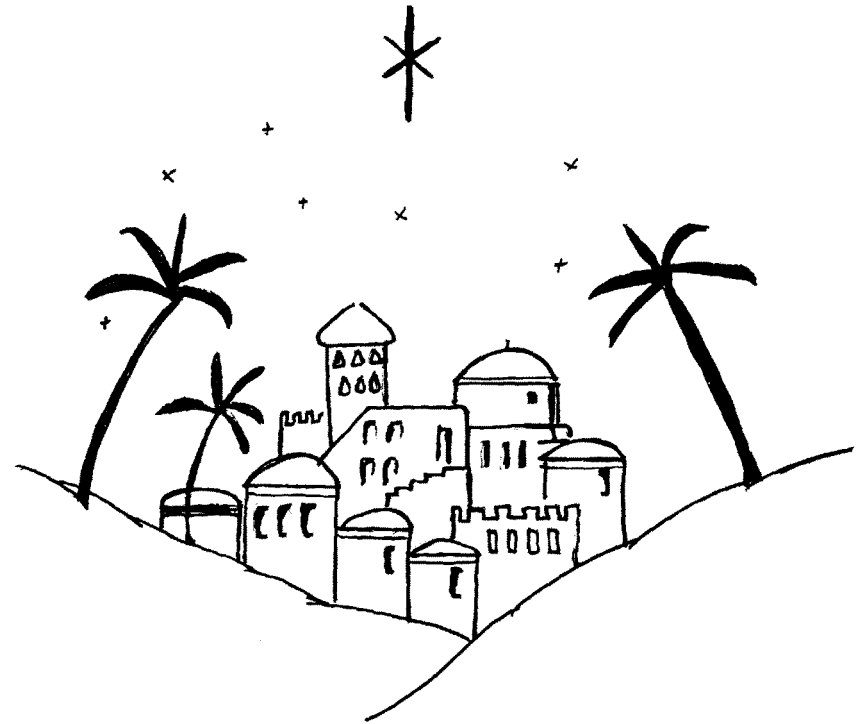
POSTLUDE

We Depart to Serve God

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments
hosted by the Membership Committee and Council*

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<http://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/2008/01/banquet-of-hopeful-expectation-advent.html>

ON THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM...
...AND BEYOND



ADVENT 2010

Where Neighbors Meet

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke
United Church of Christ

DECEMBER 5th

All are Welcome!

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, N.H.
United Church of Christ

Ministers: All the People!

Pastor: Rev. Jim Howard, D.Min.

Organist: George Bozeman

Secretary: Nancy Jackson

Office hours: Monday-Friday 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Office: 603-485-9639

Pastor's home: 603-210-2368

Pastor: pastor@pembrokechurch.org

Secretary: secretary@pembrokechurch.org

Website: www.pembrokechurch.org

301 Pembroke Street

Pembroke, NH 03275

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sunday, Dec. 5 9am Choir Rehearsal
10am Worship
10:20am Sunday School & High School
11:45am Cookies & A Christmas Movie,
A Charlie Brown Christmas
- Monday, Dec. 6 6pm Girl Scouts – PH
- Tuesday – Dec. 7 6pm Girl Scouts – PH
6pm Cub Scouts – DN
7pm Church Council
- Wed., Dec. 8 7pm BSA - PH
7pm *Blueprint for Discipleship* Adult Bible Study
- Thurs., Dec. 9 5:30pm Confirmation Class
6pm “AA” Group
7pm Deacons
- Saturday, Dec. 11 **7pm Joyce Sanborn Memorial Concert**
The Granite State Ringers
- Sunday, Dec. 12 9am Choir Rehearsal
10am Worship
10:20am Sunday School & High School
11:45am Cookies & A Christmas Movie
How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- Monday, Dec. 13 6pm Girl Scouts – PH
- Tuesday, Dec. 14 6pm Girl Scouts – PH
6pm Cub Scouts – DN
- Wed., Dec. 15 6pm Girl Scouts – DN
7pm BSA – PH
7pm *Blueprint for Discipleship* Adult Bible Study
- Thursday, Dec. 16 5:30pm Confirmation Class
6pm Cub Scouts – PH
6pm Girl Scout – DN
6pm “AA” Group

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME to all who worship with us this morning. Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book outside the center-aisle entrance at the back of the Sanctuary. Nursery care provided for infants and young children, and there are rocking chairs the rear of the Sanctuary for those with a child who needs comfort. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Older children are excused for classroom work as indicated. Thank you to those assisting in church worship this morning. Emily Stevens read the scripture. Luke Cindy Bonenfant and Tom & Allison Hardy served as ushers.

THE DEACONS FUND ...

Donations toward this fund are solicited **today**. This fund helps those in need in our church and community.

ATTENTION: KNITTERS, CROCHETERS AND SEWERS: help fill up the HAT & MITTEN TREE in the Parish Hall. Items will be delivered to the Hill School before or after Christmas.

TOYS FOR TOTS collection will be on **Dec. 19th**. Please consider donating new, **unwrapped** toys. Please provide enough wrapping materials (tape, paper, ribbon) AND batteries if the toy needs batteries (as well as extra batteries). Toys to be delivered to the local Church office.

LOOKING AHEAD ...

On January 22nd there will be a **potluck & game night**. Bring a covered dish to share and a game to play. Supper begins at 5:30pm and the games to follow. Invite your friends to join in the fun!

CHRISTMAS MOVIES & COOKIES ...

Rev. Jim is hosting this special time. Today at **11:45am** the movie **Charlie Brown Christmas** will be shown. On Dec. 12, How the Grinch Stole Christmas and Mickey's Christmas Carol on the 19th.

BROWN BAG SUNDAY is the **2nd Sunday** of the month. Non-perishable food items, paper & personal products for the Interfaith Food Pantry may be left in the Parish Hall. All donations are greatly appreciated by many families in the area. As always, **Thank you for caring!**

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE ...

During Advent we would be grateful for donations of poinsettias for the altar. They may be given in memory of or in honor of loved ones or given just because you would like to contribute to the beauty of the sanctuary during this holy, festive season. All contributions will be acknowledged in the bulletin. Thanks to all who have contributed flowers in memory or for special occasions during the past year. You have made our task easier by your generosity. Please contact Robbe MacKenzie 485-7295, Lynn Matava, 485-8352, or Doris Rowden 485-3664.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Prayers for the family of Howard Miller (Robbe MacKenzie's Dad) – who passed away

Mary Louise Grandmison's brother-in-law Bob-fighting his 3rd bout with cancer and on chemo.

Paul Stauffacher – medical concerns

Abby Duffy – diagnosed with LHON (6 years old)

Jamie (friend of Brianna Hamel) – undergoing testing for heart issues

Harold Matava – at home

Carolyn Kruczynski's Dad – prostate cancer

Carolyn Kruczynski – medical concerns

Raymond Sr. - bone cancer - Jessica Hamel's father-in-law

Steve and Carol Borghese - family and medical concerns

Stacy Driscoll's dear friend Joanne Kerstetter and her 16-year old granddaughter were severely injured in a bomb blast in South Africa on July 11th while on a mission trip. Please keep them and the other six who were also injured in your prayers.

Ruth Chase – at Harris Hill Nursing Home

Zoe, a 6 ½ yr. old girl with a brain tumor

Laurie O'Neil (Jessica Hamel's co-worker's niece) - Stage 4 cancer

Military personnel overseas & their families

POINSETTIA'S ARE GIVEN in Loving Memory of:

Her Grandparents

by Lynn Matava

Neil McCully

by John & Doris Saturley and brother, Paul

Sons, Bruce and Jeffrey

by Harold & Barbara Matava

Elcena and Hanford Phair, Gladys Brown and Ralph & Marion Rowd

by Doug & Doris Rowden

He is Coming

Elliott Hancarik

Elliott Hancarik, arr. George Bozen

He is com-ing. He will be here. He is com-ing. Prom-ise ful-fulle

He is com-ing. He will be here. He is com-ing. Prom-ise ful-fulle

He is com-ing. He will be here. He is com-ing. Prom-ise ful-fulle.

He is com-ing. He will be here. He is com-ing. Prom-ise ful-fulle.

He is com-ing. He will be here. He is com-ing. Prom-ise ful-fulle.

IN AN EFFORT TO UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION we are asking everyone to fill this form out, put in the offering plate, send the information to the church office. Please also let us know if this information can be used in the Pictorial Directory which is being worked on now.

Name(s) of persons in the household :

Adults:

Children:

Address: _____

Phone: H: _____ C: _____ W: _____

e-mail address:

May we publish these numbers & e-mail address in the

Directory? _____ Yes _____ No

Thank you for your help!

COMMUNION INSERT

Invitation

God's Banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, West and South.

A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb".

Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow The Way are welcome to eat and drink from it.

Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with us

We are not alone

Christ is present here

The Spirit moves within us

Let us give thanks to God

In memory and in hope

Blessings be to you, Creator God,

Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.

Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and messengers to your people reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way

Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus

Promising her that in her son the world would be changed

And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

(congregation singing) O come, O come Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION, WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

