

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...

God of this very day, God of eternity, we have received the Christmas gift of your presence. Help us through the turning of time to proclaim that presence with our deeds. May this coming year truly be for us a year of the Lord. Grant us the resolve to be faithful.

We confess that the Christ born away in a manger is sometimes distant from our thoughts and actions. We acknowledge that glad tidings of comfort and joy seldom come upon our lips in ways that witness to your power, grace, and love.

Although we are not herald angels, we desire to give voice and visibility to the Good News. Enable us to be makers of peace, comforters of those in trouble, interpreters of the Word, bearers of joy to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF JESUS (using "sins")



We Gather to Praise God

** indicates those who are able may stand*



WELCOME AND SHARING NEWS



ORGAN PRELUDE *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Buxtehude

INTROIT #134 *sung by everyone, seated*



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Glen E. Rainsley

Leader: Though Jesus entered this world centuries ago,

People: His presence in our lives remains timely and timeless.



Leader: Though Jesus made his earthly home in a place far distant,

People: His presence dwells in the community of the faithful and the hearts of us all.

Leader: Though angels from the realms of glory delivered the announcement of Jesus' birth,

People: It is we who translate the reality of his presence into the impact of action and the form of faith.

All: We experience our Christ as an immediate, indwelling, inspiring presence that draws us together for worship and service.



We Listen for God's Word



SERVICE OF PRAYER

SHARING PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER — PASTORAL PRAYER — RESPONSE

FIRST READING

Sirach 24:1-12

See Insert
p. 750

SECOND READING

John 1:1-18

CHILDREN'S TIME

Spiritual Food

* HYMN #172

We Three Kings



EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

p. 827

HOMILY

Sustenance for the Journey

We Respond to God's Word

THE OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

* 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.



* OPENING HYMN #154 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*



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

* HYMN #164 *sung by everyone Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*



* PRAYER OF DEDICATION *by the pastor*



We Share in The Sacrament of Holy Communion

ORGAN INTERLUDE

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

...At this gracious table we meet you
in bread made of common wheat, broken and shared and made
whole again through a sacred communing with all of creation.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

INVITATION, PRAYER OF CONSECRATION, WORDS OF INSTITUTION
SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *spoken in unison* A & T Gobledale, *adapted*

**Loving and gracious God:
Thank you for this holy meal.
Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity.
Thank you for this day in which we worship and serve you.
Enable the sustenance received here to sustain us in your
presence throughout the days and weeks ahead.
Amen.**

* HYMN #173 *As with Gladness*



* BENEDICTION *by the pastor*

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #441 *sung together while holding
hands*

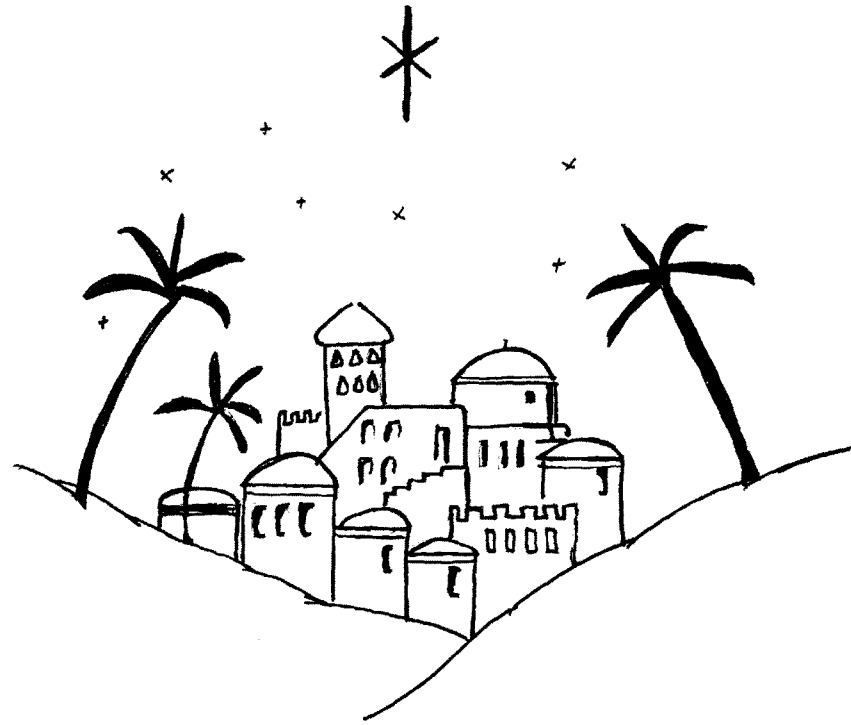
**Peace be upon you and guard you forever.
Go in the knowledge that God is with you.**



POSTLUDE

We Depart to Serve God

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments
hosted by the Deacons*



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

CHRISTMAS 2010-2011

Where Neighbors Meet

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke
United Church of Christ

JANUARY 2nd

All are Welcome!

CREDITS: *Thanks Be to God: Prayers and Parables for Public Worship* by Glen E. Rainsley. Copyright © 2005 by Glen E. Rainsley. Published by The Pilgrim Press. *Words of Worship: Resources for Church and Home* by Glen E. Rainsley. Copyright © 1991 The Pilgrim Press. Liturgy for the New Year was written by the Rev. Christine Battjes.

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Advent-Christmas Worship Team: Eileen Herring, Judy Pearson, Elliott Hancarik, and Rev. Jim.

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

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 is provided for infants and young children, and there are rocking chairs at the rear of the Sanctuary for those with a child who needs comforting. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Older children are excused for classroom work as indicated. Thank you to those assisting in our worship this morning. Judy Pearson read the scripture. Eric & Judy Pearson, Luke & Cindy Bonenfant served as ushers.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 2	9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship
Monday, Jan. 3	6pm Girl Scouts – PH
Tuesday, Jan. 4	6pm Girl Scouts – PH 6pm Cub Scouts - DN 7pm Church Council
Wed., Jan. 5	7pm BSA – PH
Thurs., Jan. 6	5:30pm Confirmation Class 6pm Cub scouts – PH 6pm “AA” Group 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal
Sunday, Jan. 9	9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship NO Sunday School
Monday, Jan. 10	6pm Girl Scouts – PH
Tuesday, Jan. 11	6pm Girl Scouts – PH 6pm Cub Scouts – PH 7pm Hospitality Plus
Wed., Jan. 12	6pm BSA – PH
Thurs., Jan. 13	5:30pm Confirmation Class 6pm Cub Scouts – PH 6pm Girl Scouts – DN 6pm “AA” Group – MR 6pm World Service Committee 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal

SCHEDULE OF USHERS FOR JANUARY ...

- 9 Floyd & Dot Smith, Tom & Allison Hardy
- 16 Dave & Nancy Bibbins, Alan & Anna Gibbs
- 23 Kurt & Jodi Ehler, Randy Shuey, Dean Hopps
- 30 Helen Chapman, Don & Laurie Hill, Lynn Matava

If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact Dean Hopps at 485-5509.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Doris Vigliotti (JoAnn Fowler's aunt) – medical issues

Paul Grandmaison - a growth in his kidney found cancerous.

Treatments start on Jan.17th for 6 weeks.

Please pray for God's love and blessings to shower upon Vince (a local

man working to get his life back on track).

Prayers for Steve & Erica Peaslee and family – their son Jacob has been

diagnosed with Autism

Mary Louise Grandmaison'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

NEW!! – POTLUCK SUPPER & GAME NIGHT at 5:30pm on January 22. Bring a covered dish to share and a game to play. Supper begins at **5:30pm**, the games to follow. Invite your friends to join in the fun!

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE ...

Donations of flowers are always welcome for our altar each Sunday morning. To contribute all you have to do is sign up on the flower sheet in the Parish Hall or let the flower committee know of your intention. Please contact Lynn Matava, 485-8352 (**January**), Doris Rowden, 485-3664 (**February**) and Robbe MacKenzie, 485-7295 (**March**).

THE DEACON'S FUND ...

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

BROWN BAG SUNDAY is next Sunday. Please leave donated items in the Parish Hall. As always, thank you for caring!

THE WISH LIST ...

Item suggestions are, but not limited to:

13 gallon trash liners	postage stamps
trash baskets	3x3 post its
8 ½ x 11 colored paper	recycle baskets

Sirach 24:1-12

Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
In the assembly of the Most High
she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts
she tells of her glory:
"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation
I have held sway.
Among all these I sought a resting-place;
in whose territory should I abide?
"Then the Creator of all things
gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.
Thus in the beloved city
he gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
I took root in an honored people,
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

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