



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

*December 10th, 2023
The Second Sunday in Advent*

The Order of Morning Worship

December 10th, 2023

The Second Sunday in Advent

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

The Advent Reading

The Bauer Family

Leader: This week we light two candles. The Promise Candle from last week and now also the Prophet Candle. Why do we light candles during this season when we focus on our longing for Christ's return?

Congregation: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

Leader: What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

Congregation: The second lighted candle represents Messiah's role as the Prophet to which all the other prophets pointed.

Leader: What were the prophets anointed to do?

Congregation: The prophets spoke the Word of God and called people to faith in Him and repentance from their wicked ways.

Leader: What did God promise about sending Messiah as *the* Prophet?

Congregation: God promises He will raise up a prophet like Moses who will speak His Word exactly as the Father commands (Deuteronomy 18).

Leader: How did Messiah fulfill this promise as *the* Prophet?

Congregation: John tells us that Jesus is the very Word of God and Jesus repeatedly told us that He spoke exactly what the Father commanded Him to speak (John 12:44-50).

❖ Call to Worship

based on Joel 2:1

Pastor

❖ Carol #203

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Congregation

❖ Carol #214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Psalm 46:8-9

Pastor

Prayer of Confession		Pastor
Silent Reflection and Confession		
Proclamation of Forgiveness	Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8	Pastor
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor
Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Carol #221	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	Congregation
Deacons' Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Daniel 9:20-24	Pastor
❖ Carol #208	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Luke 1:26-28 <i>"The Gospel According to Gabriel"</i>	Pastor
❖ Carol #201	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Isaiah/Romans	Pastor

The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

*Prelude: Of the Father's Love Begotten (Held); &
Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (J. S. Bach)*

Offertory: O Come, All Ye Faithful (Wade/Sanders)

Deacons' Offering: Good King Wenceslas (Traditional/Cota)

Postlude: "Recessional" Trumpet on "Adeste Fideles" (Barr)

*~~ Handbells: Jonathan Denham, Kyle Huck, Heidi Tucker,
Jo Truell, Kristen Warren~~*

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## Vespers Today

Vespers will be held today at the Homestead at 3:00 pm and the Mertens House at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to join—you will be blessed!

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Deacons' Offering – Today, December 10th

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The deacons have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at home (802) 457-3975, at his cell number (802) 345-8870, or email him at rhondan08@myfairpoint.net.

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## Save the Date!

**Today! Sunday, December 10** — Vespers at the Homestead at 3:00 pm and at The Mertens House at 3:30 pm

**Sunday, December 24** — 5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight
at 6 pm in the church library.

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## Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias always add to the festive color of Christmas and can be given as a memorial to a loved one and taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. To order a 6" red or white Poinsettia, contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs before December 14, 2023. The cost for each Poinsettia will be \$10. Please remember to make your check out to FCCW.

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## Advent and Christmas Devotional Booklet

For the next several weeks we will be using the Advent and Christmas booklet for daily devotions rather than the weekly Taking Gathered Worship home. Be sure to pick up your copy from the back table!

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Christmas Eve Service

This year our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 24 at **5:00 pm**. Pick up a few of the invitations on the back table and invite your friends and family to join you as we celebrate Christ's birth.

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The December Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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The Gospel According to Gabriel

1. Gabriel Waited 500 Years to See the Promise Fulfilled (26-28).

2. The Son of God Is Coming to Fulfill His Promises (28-33).

3. Nothing Is Impossible with God (34-37).

4. Let Us Respond as Mary Did—with Joyful Submission (38).

Please read through the Advent Booklet for Week Two each day this week.