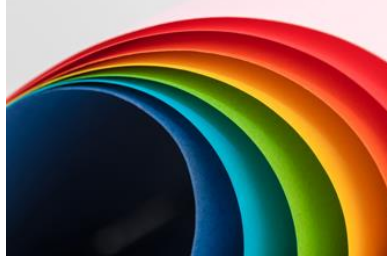


**WEEKLY GOOD NEWS EMAIL**  
**First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts**  
**And Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ**



**From Pastor Terry**  
johnterry@fcchanover.org

**November 8, 2020, Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION – but first this:**

My email account has been hacked. I have not asked anyone for any money for any cause. This is unfortunately happening to a lot of pastors. Hackers Google church websites, get the pastor's email, and try to take advantage of good Christian folks. Please do not be fooled.

**Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 78:1-7)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. God established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep the commandments.

**Invocation:**

God of peace, you taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength. By the power of your Spirit lift us to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Scripture Lessons:**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors-- Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3a</sup> Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

<sup>14</sup> "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup> for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. God protected us

along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup> and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” <sup>23</sup> He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup> The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” <sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Matthew 25:1-13\*

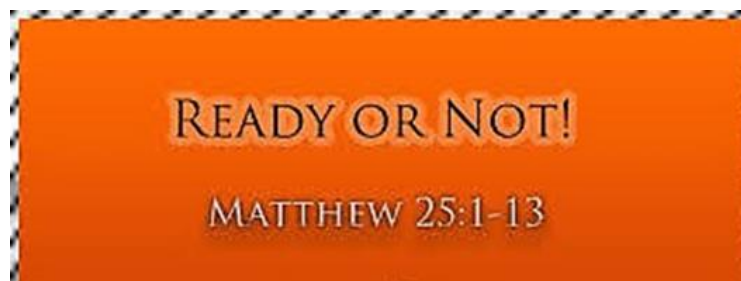
<sup>1</sup> “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**Hymn:** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

I sing the mighty pow’r of God, that made the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food, Who formed the creatures through  
the Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn  
my eye, If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There’s not a plant or flow’r below, but makes Thy glories known, And clouds arise, and tempests  
blow, by order from Thy throne; While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care; And  
everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.



**Sermon:** *Get Ready*

**Hymn:** *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in endless praise, let them flow in endless praise.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

## LOTS OF GOOD NEWS

**THE OUTREACH AND SERVICE COMMITTEE** gave \$500 to MainSpring. The mission of Father Bill's & MainSpring is to end and prevent homelessness in Southern Massachusetts. They help people who are struggling with homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, achieve self-sufficiency with programs that provide emergency and permanent housing and help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and services. In FY19 they sheltered an average of 259 individuals and 133 families per night. 259,976 meals were served to community members in need, mainly through volunteer power, such as our church provides.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:** On Sunday, November 15 we will gather in your pledges for 2021. Jack Shea will be the Stewardship speaker.

**ANNUAL THANKSGIVING INGATHERING:** The Hanover VNA would like us to contribute gift cards to local grocery stores. Please make your donations of gift cards by November 15. You may place them in the offering plate or mail them to the church office. Please make sure that your name is connected to the gift card, so that we can record your charitable donation for tax purposes.

**CHURCH FAIR:** Here are some items available on our virtual Church Fair. Call Linda (339-933-0224) or email her ([garygila@icloud.com](mailto:garygila@icloud.com)) to purchase them.



**READ THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL** on-line: <http://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches>

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**SUNDAY:** The virtual coffee hour is at 11:30.

**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 7 PM** Join in at <https://zoom.us/j/93375349480pwd=OWlkcjRmV2llaEt0M202RUhKRTA4UT09>

**Meeting ID:** 933 7534 9480; **Password:** 006430

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10:** Finance Committee at 7 PM

**WEDNESDAY HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP AT 2 PM** Join in at: <https://zoom.us/j/5848654652?pwd=WHIDSnlhWkIwc2FGS0c3VWgwNmMzZz09>; **Meeting ID:** 584 865 4652; **Password:** 531416

**WEDNESDAY:** Thrift Shop open from 10-2

**WEDNESDAY:** Search Committee

**THURSDAY:** Social Concerns Committee

**SATURDAY:** Thrift Shop open from 10-2

**EVERYDAY** – if you miss seeing someone from church give them a call!

## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

*Please email your celebrations and concerns to John Terry or to the church office.*

***Please pray for:***

- Janet Greene, at Penniman Hill in Hingham
- Ed Melchin, recovering at home
- Dave Durand, good friend of Dave and Sandy Vaughn since grade school, lung cancer
- Donna Tippy, mother of Kate Gilligan
- Paul MacKinnon, brother of Ruth Hall, in the hospital
- The family of Wally Kemp, who passed October 19
- Desmon Silva, colleague of Jessie Berry, in rehab
- Lincoln Demoura, Lynn White's brother in law, in hospice
- Barbara Winsloe, mother of Deborah Springhetti, in failing health
- Jayce Hall, Ruth Hall's daughter-in-law, with remitting auto immune disease

### **ATTACHMENTS OF THE WEEK - On to Advent!!**

#### **Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!**

Our Christmas pageant will look different this year with everyone at home, but we can still share our Christmas Story! We'd love for all the children to participate by performing a part of the story at home and recording it. We will put the recordings together in a video that will be included as part of the Christmas Eve service and in our social media accounts. Home-made costumes, scenery – you can do as much or as little as you'd like! If your child is interested in participating please contact Kate Gilligan, [kategilligan@gmail.com](mailto:kategilligan@gmail.com) or 617.281.8038 by 11/10. Please include if there are any specific role requests! Once we know how many kids are participating, we will assign roles and get the ball rolling!

#### **Christmas Eve Plans**

Our plan is to have a virtual Christmas Eve service, but we need your help. There are several readings from which you can chose. You can record this at home on your cell phone or computer and send off a copy. Here are some of the readings:

#### **Advent Candle Lighting**

#### **Call to Worship:**

#### **Invocation:**

<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Isaiah 9:2-7	<b>The Prince of Peace</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Isaiah 11:1-9	<b>The Root of Jesse</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Micah 5:2-4	<b>The Place of Birth</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Luke 1:26-38	<b>The Annunciation to Mary</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Matthew 1:18-23	<b>Visit to Joseph</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Luke 2:1-16	<b>The Birth of Jesus</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> Matthew 2:1-12	<b>The Wise men</b>
<b>Scripture Reading:</b> John 1:1-18	<b>The Word Becomes Flesh</b>

We also welcome anyone who wants to sing a Christmas song or play an instrument. Artists and photographers are also welcome – a photo of a crèche in your home or picture of a favorite painting or Christmas card.

Let me know what part you would like to take, and I will take it from there!