

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



From Pastor Terry
johnterry@fcchanover.org

November 15, 2020, Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 90)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Invocation:

Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 25:14-30

14 For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You

knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest, Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-
depth of happy rest! Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began; God's own love is reigning o'er
us, Joining people hand in hand. Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.



Sermon: *Enter the Joy*

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

Hymn: *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first fruits give.

To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe, to tend the lone and
fatherless is angels' work below.

And we believe thy Word, though dim our faith may be; whate'er for thine we do, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

LOTS OF GOOD NEWS

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP AND THANKSGIVING INGATHERING: This Sunday, November 15, we gather in our pledges for 2021. Jack Shea is the Stewardship speaker. Today is also the last day to donate gift cards to local grocery stores for distribution by the Hanover VNA. 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.

PILGRIM ASSOCIATION MEETING TODAY AT 2 PM: Join the Southeast Area Fall Fellowship Zoom Meeting (Barnstable ~ Old Colony ~ Pilgrim Associations) Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3431774084?pwd=UGdzbGdsWW1GYzFTOFV5d1I5N25wZz09>

Meeting ID: 343 177 4084; Password: 820078



MEMORIAL PLAQUE INSTALLED: To begin November, the month of giving thanks, we feel very grateful for the gorgeous fall colors of our maple trees which beautify our church campus. These trees were planted in November of 2018 by Jim Vaille. Jim has also found a stone to perfectly display the plaque which honors the donors. It faces the six maple trees at the side of the walkway to and from the parking lot. Much appreciation to Jim, and to Elaine Spooner for her diligence and perseverance spearheading this planting project which began in 2015.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE THANK YOU NOTES: The Magical Moon Foundation, Rockland Emergency Food Panty and the Hanover Food Pantry have thanked the church for our donations that enable them to fulfill their missions, make our community a great place to live, and bring light and healing to the world.

CHURCH FAIR: Thank you for supporting the virtual Church Fair. Call Linda (339-933-0224) or email her (garygila@icloud.com) to purchase hand crafted items.



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/93375349480?pwd=OWlkcjRmV2llaEt0M202RUhKRTA4UT09>

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

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: Search Committee

WEDNESDAY AND 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:

- Jim Vaille at Brigham & Women's (cards can be sent to his home)
- Vivian Dunn, Mary Dunn's aunt, in hospice
- Janet Greene, at Penniman Hill in Hingham
- Bunny Hagland, friend of Ginny Hunt-Burbine, facing cancer surgery and treatment
- 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, katgilligan@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. OR you can record these readings Sunday after worship.

Here are some of the readings:

Advent Candle Lighting

Call to Worship:

Invocation:

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-4

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-16

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

The Prince of Peace

The Root of Jesse

The Place of Birth

The Annunciation to Mary

Visit to Joseph

The Birth of Jesus

The Wise men

The Word Becomes Flesh

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!