

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 22, 2020, Thanksgiving Sunday

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 95)

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Invocation:

Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy; 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 Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Hymn: *We Gather Together*

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing; He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his
own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!



Sermon: *The M25 Church*

Hymn: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield; wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown; first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear; Lord of
harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home; gather thou thy people in, free from
sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide; come, with all thine angels,
come, raise the glorious harvest home.

LOTS OF GOOD NEWS

SERVICE CHANGE

We have been able to worship in Riley Hall this fall because it provides great ventilation. But with the windows open and the exhaust fans running, it brings in both fresh air and COLD air. Because winter is upon, we will be discontinuing in-person worship until the warmer weather next year.

Services will be recorded for you to view in the comfort of your home. The virtual coffee hour will be returned to 10:30.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Thank you to all who brought their 2021 pledge to the dedication last Sunday. Please have your pledge in by the end of the year.

CABINET MEETING: The December cabinet meeting will be held Thursday, December 10 at 7 PM on Zoom. Please send Ken Cheo any additional agenda items you would like to discuss.

2020-2021 BUDGET

Finance is proposing to budget the same amounts for each category for the 2020-2021 budget that was budgeted for 2019-2020. If you have a request to change your budget from what was set in 2019-2020, please submit the request to Carol Gillis at carol@fcchanover.org **prior to November 23, 2020.**

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Please prepare your committee report for the annual report and send it no later than **Monday, December 21** to Susan at the church office at office@fcchanover.org. Prepare your reports in Word and use Calibri (body) 11 font and send them as a Word file, not PDF.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Please send a list of vacancies on your committees to Les Hoiberg at leshoiberg@msn.com
Please also send Les a list of people you think would be good candidates to fill the positions.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE THANK YOU NOTES: Father Bill's & MainSpring sent a letter acknowledging our gift of \$500 that helps provide stability at a time when many families face tremendous uncertainty.

CHURCH FAIR: Thank you for supporting the virtual Church Fair. Call Linda (339-933-0224) or email her (garygila@icloud.com) to purchase gift baskets and 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/93375349480pwd=OWIkcjRmV2llaEt0M202RUhKRTA4UT09>

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.

Prayers of celebration upon the 44th wedding anniversary of Elise and John Terry

Please pray for:

- Ed Melchin, at Boston Medical Center
- The family of Janet Greene, who passed on November 16
- Jim Vaille at Brigham & Women's (cards can be sent to his home)
- Vivian Dunn, Mary Dunn's aunt, in hospice
- 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
- Desmon Silva, colleague of Jessie Berry, in rehab
- Lincoln Demoura, Lynn White's brother in law, in hospice
- 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

The Prince of Peace

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

The Root of Jesse

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-4

The Place of Birth

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation to Mary

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Visit to Joseph

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-16

The Birth of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise men

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

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!