



Advent Week 1: Hope

Sunday Worship

November 30, 2025

We are a progressive community of faith seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus, pursue justice and live God's love.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: Today we begin worship together. After the Time for All God's Children, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers upstairs to our one-room classroom.

There are clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Liebesleid

Fritz Kreisler

Lynnea Harding, Violin

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Steve Savage

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

The Hope Candle

Debbie and John Grew

SUNG RESPONSE

When God is a Child, verse 1

The first candle is lit

Lyrics For Reflection:

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: On Sundays and Mondays,

All: On good days and bad days,

One: Early in the morning and very late at night,

**All: Here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.**

One: Meet us in this space.

All: Surprise us with your presence.

One: Fill this room with your good news.

All: With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

#121

*Please rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close.
We long to see you break through the chaos
and the suffering in this world.
But if we're honest, we rarely stand still
long enough to notice you in our midst.
Forgive our rushing and our distracted ways.
Forgive our wandering hearts and center us in this space.
Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are with us here. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Chorus, twice through)
Gloria ... In excelsis Deo;
Gloria ... In excelsis Deo!

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Debbie Rideout

One: With-us God, in the time of Moses,
you spoke through fire and water and a pillar of smoke.
In the time of the judges,
you spoke through the prophets.
In the time of Herod,
you spoke through angel songs and unlikely miracles.

All: In every time you have been speaking.
So today, break through all the chatter and distractions
and speak to us once more. With hope we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:5-13

SERMON

Longing for God to Break In

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Nocturne

Lili Boulanger

Lynnea Harding, Violin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O God

Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.

Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.

OFFERING INVITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel

#122

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team H, Carrie Skeffington, captain.

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream!

****Our Advent Liturgy** was written by/adapted from Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Cover design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8 pm. All singers are welcome. We meet in the Choir Room on the lower level of the church. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at dmcclure@fccucc.org.

Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion. If you are interested in ringing in the choir or would like more information, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

TODAY: Greater Portland Multi-Faith Meal Packing, Sunday, November 30, two shifts: 12-1:30 pm and 1:30 – 3 pm, Guptill Hall. The food will be delivered to Portland area food pantries. This is a great, all-ages volunteer opportunity!

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR, Saturday, December 6, 9 am – 2 pm

To volunteer for the Bazaar: Please contact Lynne at lanctotla74@gmail.com

Bazaar donations can be dropped off in Guptill Hall beginning Monday, Nov. 24.

Sign up for the Bazaar Brunch: Help us set the table for the FCCUCC Church Bazaar Brunch! Sign up using the QR code and help where you can! Some items can be dropped off ahead of time or on the day of event. Contact: christine123168@hotmail.com



Pre-Order a Holiday Wreath by Dec. 2: To order a wreath for pick-up on Saturday, December 6, please email Deb Sandler (dhallsandler@gmail.com) the following information: Your name, email address, phone number, number of wreaths (\$20 each), red or holiday bow (\$25), cones and berries (\$30), or cones/berries/décor (\$35).

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Support Long Creek Youth Development Center: November 30 – December 12

Select a hanging bag from the Giving Tree at the front of the Sanctuary and return to the office or mail gift cards to the UCC FCC office. Please write the amount of the gift card on the card. Contact Jan Hamilton at 207-885-0923 with questions.

Holiday Mitten Tree: December 14 - Epiphany, January 4

Decorate the sanctuary tree with your donations of adult and children's hats, mittens and scarves. Covering the branches with every color and size ensures the warmth of our neighbors in the community.

Clynk Bags are in the narthex (inside main entrance). Collect your returnable cans and bottles and return them to a Clynk collection site at Hannaford or other participating grocery stores. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. *Thank you!*

Volunteer for Preble Street Food Hub: On the last Friday of each month, we prepare meals at the Food Hub, 75 Darling Avenue, South Portland, for delivery to Preble Street satellite sites. Please join us! To learn more about how to volunteer, see the Weekly Word or contact Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com

On Friday, December 26, the day after Christmas, 5 volunteers are needed to fill the FCCUCC shift from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Climate Changed Podcast, Behind the Scenes, Episode 10: Listen to BTS Center Executive Director Allen speak on "Small Experiments with Radical Intent." Our *Toss the Tanks* community forum was one of those experiments!

<https://thebtscenter.org/climate-changed/podcast-behind-the-scenes-episode-ten/>

Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil outside the Cumberland County Detention Center, at the corner of Congress and County Way, every Wednesday from 2:45 – 3:15 pm
Community faith leaders host these vigils, which may include songs, silence, prayer or other spiritual practices to honor the sacred worth of all people, and to hold up everyone involved - those detained, officers, and our entire community.

* * * * *

WHAT'S UP?

Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to: fccucc.org and select "Contact Us" then select "Contact Info Update Form."

Your positive reviews on social media help others to find us.

Write a review on Google (Thanks!). Like and follow us on:



ADVENT - CHRISTMAS - EPIPHANY

Advent Wreath-Making Workshop - Sunday, November 30, during social hour in Wright Pavilion.

Advent Bible Study, Tuesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, along with art and reflections from our Advent Devotional, *What Do You Fear?* Led by Rev. Steve Savage.



Fellowship Club, Tuesday, December 2, 6:15 pm in Guptill Hall. Well-known harpist, Barbara Ryland, will be our guest performer playing holiday music.

Christmas Tree Lighting in South Portland - Friday, December 5, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Mill Creek Park (FCC UCC table set-up at 4 pm). Come hang a star with your seasonal prayers, donate coats and help us to welcome our South Portland neighbors.

Holly Daze Bazaar - Saturday, December 6, 9 am - 2 pm, with brunch served 9 am - 12 noon.

Caroling at the Rotary Tree Sale, Sunday, December 7, 12-1 pm, Mill Creek Park. Led by Choir Director Deirdre McClure with guest appearance by Terry Foster on accordion.

Game Night, Tuesday, December 9, 7 pm in Wright Pavilion.

Fellowship Club Christmas Cookie Sale, Sunday, December 14, during social hour. Plates of homemade cookies: \$10 for one plate or \$18 for two plates. Stock up on cookies for the holidays!

WORSHIP EVENTS

Longest Night Worship - Tuesday, December 16, 7 pm, A gentle, candlelit service for those seeking company, comfort or encouragement. Special music by the bell choir.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

5 pm: All-Ages Christmas Pageant - We will gather and tell the story together

8 pm: Candle-lit Christmas Eve Worship with lessons and carols

Sunday, December 28: Worship led by members of Spiritual Life and Worship. Sing and pray together and reflect on the turning of the year.

Sunday, January 4: Epiphany: A creative, All-Ages Worship featuring the story of the Magi.

Church Offices will be closed December 25, 2024 - January 1, 2025.

ADVENT ART FOR REFLECTION



Depths

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Inspired by Lamentations 3:55-57

16"x20" Acrylic, oil pastel, metal leaf on canvas

I am reminded of my love-hate relationship with theme park rides as soon as the ride quiets into a slow, steady climb—creeping toward an edge that seems to vanish. It's at this point that full panic sets in and it hits me: a drop is coming. It's not the speed or height of roller coasters that scares me. It's the weight—being pulled down by something far heavier than myself, strapped to metal with gravity dragging me into the depths while my stomach scrambles to catch up, my heart left behind in midair. Many of us, like the writer of Lamentations, know this kind of free fall—in our personal lives, in our ministries, and in a political climate that seems to collapse our sense of security into a bottomless pit. Yet, when the fall ends, when the deepest depths have been reached, who hears us when we call? As we echo prayers from the depths of each of our lives, we can rest in the assurance that we are heard by a God who meets us at rock bottom. | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org