



Advent Week 2: Peace

Sunday Worship December 7, 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 Passing of the Peace, 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 *Savior of the Nations, Come* 16th Cent. German
Handbell Choir arr. Cathy Moglebust

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Steve Savage

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** The Peace Candle Deb and Rick Small

SUNG RESPONSE *When God is a Child, verse 2* Two candles are lit
Congregation joins second time through:

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth.
Giving a promise of safety and worth.
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: Family of faith, God is at work!

All: God is healing and creating,

One: redeeming and dreaming

All: calling and sending

One: listening and loving.

All: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

One: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

All: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *All Earth is Waiting (Toda la Tierra)* #129
Songs of the Spirit (Gray book)

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope.
We have every reason to believe that spring will come,
that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.
And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.
With anxious hearts we cry out to you,
“Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?
Will I ever make a difference?”
Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places
where the sun is shining.
Show us the places where you are on the move.
With open hearts we pray,
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!

Children are invited to leave for Church School while we sing.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Sue Farris

One: Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter.

We need music and we need a hand to hold.

We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do.

But maybe more than anything,
we need your Word and a reason to hope.

All: **So move through this space today
and speak to us as only you can.**

Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones.

**For we need bread and we need laughter,
but most of all, we need you. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:1-11

SERMON *When We're Out of Hope, God is At Work* Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

OFFERING INVITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Preparation – 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.

We Tell the Story

We Bless the Bread

We Share the Meal You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive communion. All bread is gluten free. The juice is non-alcoholic. There are pre-wrapped communion elements for those who prefer, on the communion table.

Communion Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

German, Traditional;
arr. Sally DeFord

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

#127

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
(from the collection: Christmas Eve)

David Lanz

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team I, Richard Parker, captain.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory and honor of our parents; Harry and Evelyn Armstrong & Donald and Jane Gressly from Rich and Diane Armstrong.

The Steeple is lit in remembrance of Edithe and Linwood Durrell, Karen and Phillip Durrell & Phillip II and Raymond Durrell.

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 dmclure@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.

NEW TO FCC UCC?

Newcomers Reception, Sunday, December 14, 11:30 am, Davidson Lounge: Thinking about joining or just curious to learn more about FCC UCC? Join Rev. Alison Patton and Rev. Steve Savage for conversation and an informal information session. Bring your questions; connect with others who are also newer.

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.

Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil, at 20 Portland Street and proceed to Monument Square, Friday, December 19, 4:30 pm: A candlelit procession to remember our unhoused friends we have lost this past year.
<https://www.preblestreet.org/vigil/>

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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."

Was your experience with us meaningful?

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

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/fccucc](https://www.facebook.com/fccucc)

Instagram: [instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland](https://www.instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland)

YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland](https://www.youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland)



ADVENT - CHRISTMAS - EPIPHANY

NEW: Make Luminaries and Snowflakes During Social Hour, December 7: Join us for coffee, tea and seasonal crafts in Wright Pavilion after worship. Create a paper bag luminary to take home. Create snowflakes to hang in our windows.



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.

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. Old and new board games for all ages!

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 handbell 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 with a fresh take on the story of the Magi.

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