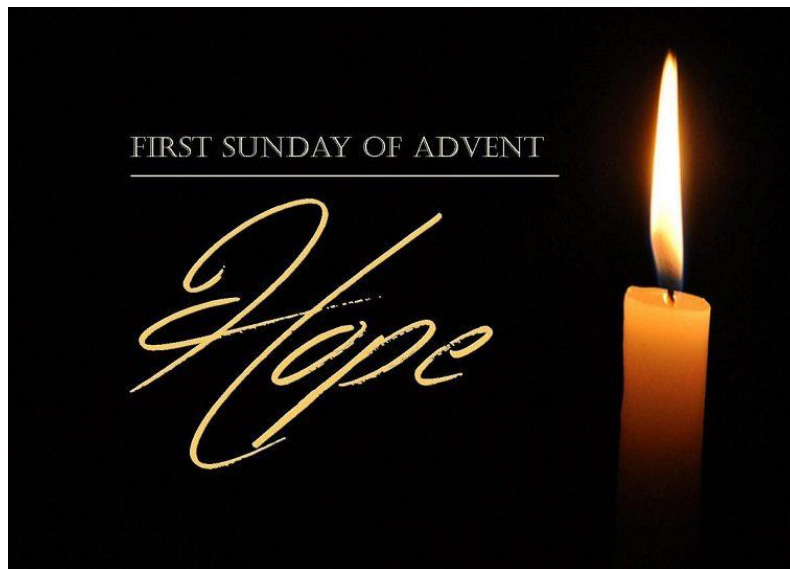


# The United Church of Christ, Congregational Burlington, MA



## First Sunday in Advent

*"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."*

**November 28, 2021**

**10:30 A.M.**

## Coming...

**Musical Prelude**

Singing of Advent & Christmas Carols

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Covenanting Ceremony**

**Meditative Thought**

Emily Dickinson

*"'Hope' is the thing with feathers - That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words - And never stops - at all."*

**Introit:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 1) – tune: VENI VENI EMMANUEL,  
adapted by Thomas Helmore with accompaniment by Richard Proulx; text:  
Latin 9th century, translated by John M. Neale

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

# Welcoming Our Interim Pastor

**LAY LEADER:** Dear Christian Friends: Baptized in the priesthood of Christ, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today we give thanks to God for the Ministry that God has given to the people of The United Church of Christ, Congregational, and for the faithful service of its members and former pastors, most recently Rev. Angela Wells-Bean. And, now we begin a new part of the journey with our interim pastor Rev. Ed Koonz. We ask God's guidance for our ministry as we join together in prayer.

**ALL:** Gracious God, You have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter this in-between time. Comfort us as we grieve the past or look anxiously to the future. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we might be prepared for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**INTERIM PASTOR:** As we begin this interim time together, we begin new relationships. I have been called as your interim pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time, until that time when you call a settled pastor. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the gospel among you: I will pray for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this interim period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

**CONGREGATION:** And we, the people of The United Church of Christ, Congregational, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service and stewardship.

**INTERIM PASTOR:** May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

## Prayerful Praising & Learning...

### Call to Worship

One: Living in a world darkened by understandable despair,

**All: We gather as God's people of faith and HOPE!**

One: Amidst a world darkened by the chaos of destruction and death,

**All: We worship a God of Creation and Salvation!**

One: In a world darkened, disheartened, and de-energized,

**All: We are drawn to the Light of a Holy-Spirited HOPE descending and dawning...**

### \*Opening Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

NCH #21

### \*Opening Prayer

Come, O God, come! Come into our hearts which ache with desire for global well-being. Come into our world desperate for salvation. Come into our lives personally, come into the life of our church, and come into the life of the world! Come in Christ, come in Spirit, come as we worship today... Amen!

**\*Praise Response** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn!”

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
For angels herald its dawning,  
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,  
Behold! The Child of our longing  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
To bring all hearts together,  
To open wide the heavenly door  
And lives now inside us forever.**

### **Lighting of First Advent Candle**

One: Advent is a time of preparing for Christmas!

**All: Advent is a season for harboring HOPE amidst waves of despair crashing upon the shores of our lives.**

One: Advent is a time for guarding against destructive waves flooding our lives with despair.

**All: HOPE shall beat in our hearts, reside in our homes, and rule our world!**

**Candle Lighting & Response** “Christ, Be Our Light”, refrain  
**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine in our darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.**

**Children of God Time** “Birthday Eves and New Year’s Eve”

**Congregational Response** “Rejoice in the Lord Always”  
**Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

### **Scripture Reading**

*Luke 2:7*

*And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.*

**Choral Anthem** “Keep Your Lamps”-- Spiritual, arranged by Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
The time is drawing nigh. (Repeat)

Children, don’t get weary,  
Children, don’t get weary,  
Children, don’t get weary,  
‘Til your work is done. (Repeat)

Christian, journey soon be over.  
Christian, journey soon be over.  
Christian, journey soon be over,  
The time is drawing nigh. (Repeat)

## Reflecting & Praying...

## Scripture Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 1:26-37*

*Isaiah 35:10*

*The wilderness, and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and bloom...*

*Say to those who are of a fearful heart: “Be strong; do not fear!”...*

*A highway shall be there... and the ransomed of the Lord shall return.*

*Luke 1:37*

*For nothing will be impossible with God.*

[illegible]

**Hymn of Faith** (seated)      “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”, verses 1 & 3-5      *NCH #119*

## Sharing of Prayer Concerns & Joys

## Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

**... Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Committing...

## Stewardship Invitation

**Offertory** *Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme* (Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying)  
from *Sechs Choralsätze* -- Samuel Scheidt

**\*Advent Doxology** *NCH #782*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

(hymn #782, *The New Century Hymnal*)

## \*Prayer of Dedication & Consecration

## Going...

## \*Commissioning

One: Go into the world, basking in the Light of God!

**All: Let the Light of Christ shine from within us!**

One: Let us light up the world with HOPE!

**All:** Let the world's prospects be brightened; by our lives!

**\*Closing Hymn**                      “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”                      *NCH #122*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme*  
(Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying) – Johann Sebastian Bach

**Church Vision Statement,  
adopted February 2017:**

*At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that **all are welcome, all are loved**. We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.*

In 2021, UCC Burlington will focus on *healing and recovery* as our church goals for the year. We will work together, across the generations, to heal physical, emotional, and social wounds that have collectively injured us. We will support one another in our mutual healing so that we can recover as stronger and more faithful followers of Christ. This is inspired by the scripture from Micah 7:8,  
“When I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.

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Rev. Ed Koonz, Interim Pastor  
Joe Stoddard, Jr.-Director of Music  
Deb Raymond-Director of Christian Ed  
Bobbie Killilea-Administrative Asst.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Tom Killilea –upcoming surgeries  
Marilyn Langley's friend Linda's son Kevin  
Karen Ciardi's husband  
Joe Stoddard's Mom Lillian  
Alan Wright's cousin Tim  
Barbara Moran  
Joyce Carpenter- upcoming surgery  
Anne Stafford  
Luella Brown  
Dave Ieradi's Dad and son Dano  
Sue Wisniewski's Dad  
Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff  
Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian  
Jean Bastos  
Rev. Elizabeth King  
Jan Blandino  
Bobbie Martino  
Barbara Garland  
Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace  
Henry Knopp  
Dot Drinkwater  
Everett Langley's brother George  
John Heald's sister Susan & Mom  
Jim Mungillo

Our First Responders! Our caregivers!  
Urgent Care workers!  
Military here and abroad!  
BE SAFE!

**CHOIR REHEARSALS**

We have started rehearsing back in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at a new time 7:00PM. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Joe Stoddard at **[music@uccburlington.org](mailto:music@uccburlington.org)**

## **November 28 First Sunday of Advent**

### **Worship begins at 10:20 with**

#### **a hymn sing**

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist:	Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Advent Candle Lighters:	Interim Search Committee
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:	Deb Glancy
Usher:	Dave McNeil
Greeter:	Lucy Damiani
Collector:	Marcia Rich
Flowers:	Debbie Claar
Nursery:	
Coffee Hour:	Marge Zamanian
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond

## **December 5 Second Sunday of Advent**

### **Communion Worship at 10:30amA**

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist:	Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Advent Candle Lighters:	Volunteer
Lay Leader:	Marcia Rich
Head Usher:	Deb Glancy
Usher:	Chris Stahlinski
Greeter:	Sally Willard
Collector:	Joan Zink
Flowers:	Sally Willard
Nursery:	Volunteer
Coffee Hour:	Jan McSheffrey
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond

#### **SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERING!**

We now have the ability to sign up for any of the Sunday morning worship duties through the online tool **SignUp.com**. Donna Flecchia will walk you through the quick enrollment.

#### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS**

We are looking for families, friends, individuals, committee members, to light our Advent Candles for the following dates: December 5, December 12, and December 19. Please contact Pastor Ed at [RevEd85@aol.com](mailto:RevEd85@aol.com) or Bobbie at [uccburlington.org](http://uccburlington.org)

## **WELCOMING OUR INTERIM PASTOR**

This morning we welcome our Interim Pastor, Rev. Ed Koonz. Pastor Ed resides in Nashua, was born and raised in Shelburne Falls, MA. He graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. degree in Religious Studies from Brown University in 1977. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA and was ordained at the Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix, AZ by the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ in 1985. Rev. Koonz served as Associate Pastor of Neighborhood Church of Palos Verdes Estates, CA from 1985-1989. From 1989-2010, Rev. Koonz was Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Nashua. While there, he co-founded the Nashua Caregivers, served on the Board of Nashua Home Health & Hospice, the Southern NH Medical Center Chaplain's Advisory Team, and chaired the Boards of Emmaus Counseling Institute and the New Hampshire Teen Institute.

After 21 years, Rev. Koonz went to serve as Pastor of Hampstead Congregational Church, UCC for 6 years. In 2016, Rev. Koonz completed the Interim Ministry Network training for transitional ministries. He served for 2 years as Interim Senior Pastor at the Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC and for 3 years as Interim Pastor of the Congregational Church of Harvard, UCC.

Ed is married to Barbara, whom he met as a college student. Barbara is a retired educator with a degree in elementary and special education. Barbara and Ed have three adult children: Justin, Alison, and Elizabeth - and two granddaughters, Luma, 6 and Niall, 3.

Pastor Ed can be reached by email at: [reved85@aol.com](mailto:reved85@aol.com) or by phone at: 603-620-4498.

#### **LOWELL TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER**

The LTLC is in need of warm clothing such as: **winter jackets, sweatpants, sweat-shirts, gloves and socks**. They do not have to be new items! There is a bin inside the RED doors for you to put your donations. We deliver once a month to Lowell.







