

***Welcome to this service of worship  
on the Second Sunday of Advent.***

As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people.

[\*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.

**Bold type** signifies congregational response.

**WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME**

PRELUDE *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* Monk/Stearns

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Holly Billings, Mimi Nelson

**Come, Holy God, come and save us. Come, Holy Christ, come and touch us. Come, Holy Spirit, come and revive us. Come and turn us around, and point us toward your kingdom. Amen.**

\* HYMN #10 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty God, darkness and confusion surround us, until your light bursts into our lives. We cover our eyes, for we are unprepared for your coming. How can we stand before you, O Lord? The road we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as twisted and full of holes. Where can we turn? Who will guide us? Come to us, O God of mercy. Amen.**

\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

**Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.**

**The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**Amen.**

\*PRAYER RESPONSE

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

ANTHEM *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him, who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there in, rejoice on earth, ye saints below for Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3:1-12 Pew Bible NT p. 2-3

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Shall We Begin Again?" Rev. Russ Feroe

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\*HYMN # 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, who is love and who has given the**

**earth to all people. I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression. I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth. I believe in the Community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people. I believe in God's promise finally to destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the Kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer is found on the top of page 16 of the Hymnal, traditional version using "debts" and "debtors."*

OFFERING *The Deacons' Loose Offering this Sunday is designated to fund gifts for our Covenant to Care "adopted" families.*

ORGAN OFFERTORY *O Christ Who Art the Light of the World*  
arr. Dupre

\*RESPONSE

*All Things are Thine*

(Tune: "Duke Street" Hymn #423)

**All things are thine: no gift have we, Lord of all gifts, to offer thee; And hence with grateful hearts today Thine own before thy feet we lay.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We delight in your love, O Lord, and seek to serve you in humility and compassion. We offer ourselves, as well as these gifts, and pray that we and they will bring light and hope to those who continue to dwell in darkness. Amen.**

## WE CELEBRATE AT THE TABLE

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*All who put their trust in Christ are invited to receive the Sacrament, no one is excluded.* As we pass the bread to one another say "(name) This is the body of Christ for you." It is our custom to eat the Bread when it is received. As we pass the cup to one another say "(name) This is the blood of Christ for you." We hold the cup and drink together when all have been served (we use non-alcoholic grape juice).

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE *(Those who have announcements are asked to please move to the front pews at this time.)*

\*HYMN #409 *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## BENEDICTION

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#540 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a Shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE *Come Redeemer of Mankind* Pachelbel

## SERVICE

**Flowers:** The flowers are given this morning by Jane Murray in loving memory of her mother, Jane MacIvor Osler.

**Acolyte:** Grant Spears

**Liturgist:** Lois Maxwell

**Greeters:** Lois Maxwell and Sunday School

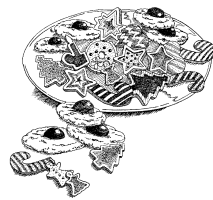
**Ushers:** Julius Aboagye, Maude Morrison, Tom McNeill, Akosua Ware.

### Communion Stewards:

**Preparation:** Maude Morrison, Carolyn Perkins

**Restoration:** Juliana Mantey, TBA

**Serving:** Michael Adzenyah, Adu Amankwah, Sue Corrigan, Alice Evans, Sue Labins, TBA.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for refreshments and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship. Bob and Alice Evans are hosting.

# Second Sunday of Advent



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor

Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday, December 6, 2009

### TODAY

Outreach Meeting in Library after Worship

### THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 8 6:00 PM Stewardship meeting  
7:00 PM Session meeting  
Wed. Dec. 9 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal  
Sat. Dec. 12 4:00 PM Pageant rehearsal  
5:00 PM Christmas Pageant  
& Dinner

### NEXT SUNDAY

Liturgist: Marissa Cort  
Greeters: Michael Asare, David Owusu  
**11:30 AM Congregational Meeting**

### LOOKING AHEAD

Wed. Dec. 16 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal  
Sun. Dec. 20 Lessons & Carols  
Christmas Joy Offering  
Tue., Dec. 22 5:00 PM Community Meal  
Wed. Dec. 23 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal (brief)  
Thu. Dec. 24 7:30 PM Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service at FPC  
Fri. Dec. 25 Christmas – Office Closed  
HOH Community Meal  
Sat. Dec. 26 1:30 PM Center Church Camp  
Reunion in Johnstone Hall  
Sun. Dec. 27 Parish Ed. meeting after worship.  
Multicultural Team meeting after  
worship.

### Call to Congregational Meeting

The Session has called the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, Connecticut to meet for its December annual meeting on December 13 for the purpose of electing an Auditor, Corporation Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer and to present the 2010 Budget.



††††

### SESSION

<u>Class of 2010</u>	Holly Billings (Clerk of Session), Alice Evans, Samuel Hamilton, Juliana Mantey
<u>Class of 2011</u>	Susan Corrigan, Robin Herrera, Mildred McNeill, Gladys Wiafe
<u>Class of 2012</u>	Julius Aboagye, Jane Murray Yaa Okoampa-Sykes, (open)
<b>THE BOARD OF DEACONS</b>	
<u>Class of 2010</u>	Gretchen Fuchs, Carolyn Perkins, Keith Rhoden (Deacon Moderator)
<u>Class of 2011</u>	Michael Asare, Lloyd Brooks, Susan Labins
<u>Class of 2012</u>	Michael Adzenyah, Cynthia McPherson, Jean Nesbitt

### PASTOR'S HOURS

Monday: In the church office all day; please call, leave a message, and he will return your call.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: in the church office from 8:30-12:00; call or stop in.  
Friday: Working at home; call, leave a message, and he will return your call.  
Saturday: Day off.  
Church office phone: 860-246-2224;  
Rev. Feroe's home phone: 860-904-6467

## Intercessions

*In our First Presbyterian Church cycle of prayers, we pray this week for:*

Norman & Ruth Van Anden  
Wes & Rebekah Van Anden, Willow  
Akosua Ware  
Criss Watson  
Kristin Moir Harvey (she continues treatment for leukemia).  
Jerry Butler – who needs a kidney. He is the husband of Rachel Butler.  
John & Dottie Brash  
Jean Engquist and family. Jean has Alzheimer's and is in hospice. She is Bill Cooke's sister.  
George Christinat– living with ALS. He is Keith Rhoden, Jr.'s neighbor.  
In thanksgiving for Harper Van Anden who arrived early but healthy on Nov. 25. She is daughter of Norman Van Anden's eldest son Jason Van Anden and wife Lauri Goldkind who live in Brooklyn, NY.  
The future of First Presbyterian Church.  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, one of Presbytery's Missions.

*Note: The first four (and final) entries are from rotational lists. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless we are notified to add or remove that person's name. Please fill out a prayer card, contact the pastor, an elder or the church office( 860-246-2224 or [fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net)) to request changes to the list.*

## Church Announcements

For other opportunities and announcements please see the bulletin board(s) in Hodge Hall and office annex.

### Poinsettia Order Deadline is Today

If you've been meaning to order flowers to beautify the sanctuary, to thank or remember someone, and have not turned in your order and money, today is the last day to do so. Order forms can be found on the Information Table in Hodge Hall.

### Personal Hygiene Items

When shopping, please keep an eye out for sales on items you can share with MANNA Food Pantry clients. Non-food items needed include combs, razors, toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and bar soap. Thank you.



### Community Meal

Our next Community Meal is on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Menu is meat loaf, rice and black beans, tossed salad, bread & butter, dessert, regular canned soda.

### No More Room at MANNA

Your donations of winter clothing have been generous and MANNA thanks you! But, at the present time they are overwhelmed with donations and are busy sorting and distributing clothing with no room for more.

### These Days

New Daily Devotions for Living by Faith are at the back of the church.

*The Abiding Memorials Book* is open to the abiding gift given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Katherine Laird**, born October 13, 1899, died February 5, 1996, perpetuated in Altar Flowers and upgrade of the church electrical system.

**Nursery Care** is provided during the service in the Buchanan



Child Care Available

Room for children up to age 4. An usher will direct you to the location. **Shannon Hopkins** is the nursery director. **Augusta Jara** is the assistant. For safety's sake, please have a responsible adult drop off and pick up your child.

### Assisted listening devices and large print

bibles and hymnals are available near the entry to the sanctuary. The wireless listening system, similar to those used at the Bushnell and Hartford Stage, allows users to sit anywhere in the sanctuary.



### Reminder

To help stop the spread of the flu (to you or others!) be sure to keep your hands clean.

**Offering Envelopes** are available in the pews for the convenience of those who may have forgotten their assigned envelope or for those who wish to use an envelope for a cash gift. If you wish your contribution to be used for a specific cause, please indicate that on the envelope.

**Membership and Baptism**— First Presbyterian Church, Hartford invites you to commit to membership as witness to your faith in Christ, and the mission of Christ as lived out in the life of this congregation. We receive members by affirmation of faith, or by reaffirmation or transfer of membership. Also, if you have an interest in baptism please see or e-mail Pastor Feroe at [rferoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rferoe@sbcglobal.net) or speak with one of the session members or other elder.

*This is a welcoming Church,* embracing sisters and brothers without regard to age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation or theological viewpoint. We want you to feel a part of the family. There is a variety of materials near the entrance to acquaint you with the Church. ***We encourage you to sign the guest book in the entry and to use the yellow card in the pews to register your attendance and enable us to add you to our newsletter mailing list. Please place yellow cards in the offering plates.***

*“Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).”*



### First Presbyterian...Who Are We?

The downtown First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1851, is a richly diverse group of people from both city and suburbs, committed to ministry to and with the people of the City of Hartford.

We are building a warm and caring community that spiritually nurtures people in worship, education, fellowship and active involvement in mission.

We believe that the Church is called to reflect the kingdom of God which embraces all believers. We invite, accept and welcome into our membership and leadership people who differ by age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation and theological viewpoint. This diverse group energetically and cooperatively participates in the life of this congregation, its mission and its leadership. We are committed to our Presbyterian traditions of representative government and reformed theology, while open to working collaboratively in mission and ministry with other faith traditions.

First Presbyterian Church  
136 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860.246.2224  
[fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchartfordct@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.firstpreshartford.org](http://www.firstpreshartford.org)

