

Welcome to this service of worship on the Third 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. We light the Peace Candle to stand as a beacon of hope, calling us and all the world from darkness to light, from violence to peace.*

[*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.
Bold type signifies congregational response.

WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME

PRELUDE *My Lord! What a Morning* arr. Utterback

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE
Ben Klein & Ruth Bergman

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, create in us a fountain of joy. Stir up in us a spirit ready to dance and sing. Kindle in us a fire of gladness, for you are the One who comes with healing and blessing. Amen.

* HYMN #15 *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

With laughing hearts and joyous hope, we come to you, O God. With tired souls and withered dreams, we come to you, O God. In our joy and in our sorrow, we turn to you, O God. Renew us with your love. Help us hear the whispers of angels. With hope and expectation we pray, Amen.

*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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM *Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* Handel

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Holy, Holy,
Who was, and is to come, and is to come.
Who shall not glorify Thy name for Thou only art
holy, Thou only art the Lord.
Holy, holy, Lord God
Almighty, Holy, holy, Who
was, and is to come, and is
to come.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible NT p.1

MESSAGE "Believe What You Hear!" Rev. Russell Feroe

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN #9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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

OFFERTORY *Advent Peace Canon* Pachelbel/Schram
Ruth Bergman, violin

Dona nobis pacem. Come thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins
release us, let us find our rest in Thee. Israel strength
and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art. Dear
desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Come
thou long expected Jesus; come to us and bring us peace.

*RESPONSE *All Things are Thine*
(Tune: 423, Duke Street)

**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

**With deep gladness in our hearts, O God, we bring
this offering to you. For gathering us when we were
outcast, for saving us when we were lost, for loving
us when we were unlovable, we thank you.
Strengthen us by your presence to make known your
mercy to all people. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(Those who have announcements are asked to please move to
the front pews at this time.)*

*HYMN #20 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Sing of God's deeds. Speak of God's grace.
God is with us here.
Live as God's people. Walk in God's ways.
God is with us on the way. Alleluia, Amen.

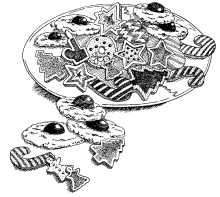
RESPONSE #540 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**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 *O Thou of God the Father* Bach

SERVICE

Acolyte: Akosua Adzenyah
Greeters: Michael Asare, David Owusu
Liturgist: Marissa Cort
Ushers: Julius Aboagye, Tom McNeill, Maude Morrison, Akosua Ware.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for coffee and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship.

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 our visitors to feel a part of the family. *“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).”*

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.

All of our services and activities are open to non-members.

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 or speak with one of the session members or other elder.

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.

ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM AVAILABLE

Anyone who has difficulty in hearing and understanding the service is encouraged to use the assisted listening system. This is a wireless system so users can sit anywhere in the sanctuary. Receivers are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. Many of you have used a similar system at the Bushnell or Hartford Stage.



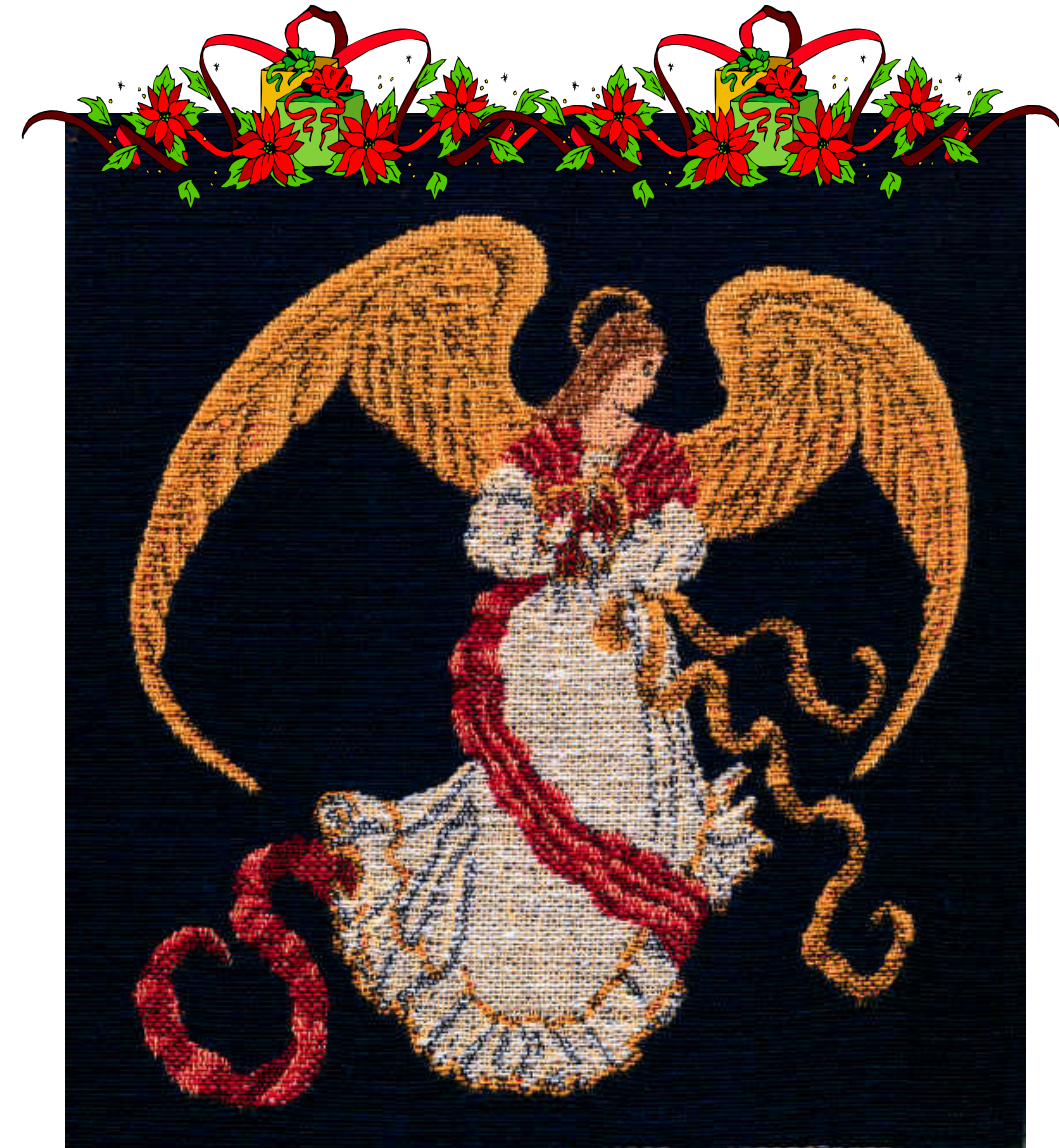
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor. Office Hours 8:30 am – 12:00 noon Tue., Wed., Thu. E-mail: rferoe@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-904-6467 anytime.

Dianne Ney, Music Director; Ruth Van Anden, Office Mgr.; John Du Pont, Sexton.

Office Hours: M – F 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
(Closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM).

We are a member church of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Synod of the Northeast, Presbytery of Southern New England.



First Presbyterian Church

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Pastor

Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday, December 13, 2009