

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451  
Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor  
Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist  
**November 28, 2021 - First Sunday of Advent**

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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT** "Advent Introit & Blessing - Rejoice, Rejoice" - J. M. Martin

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

**People: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

Pastor: Now is the season of Hope unfolding.

**People: The dark winter season when Hope is waiting to be born.**

Pastor: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

**People: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** "Christ Is Coming! Let Creation" No. 183

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Dear God, the day of your kingdom draws ever near; your light grows steadily around us to pierce the darkness and opens us to the promise of life. Your Christ still comes in the midst of us, now in Spirit where he once came in flesh. Open our hearts that we may perceive his presence, and our ears that we may hear his call, in all the events that fill our lives today. Give us the courage to respond, to say Yes; to carry on the work of love and service for which he was sent and for which he sends us. Give birth to the Christ in our lives so that through us he may give life to the world. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

**FIRST SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 33: 14-16 page 645

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Advent Processional (Come, O Rose)" - D. Greig

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**UNISON PRAYER** - (whole congregation)

Dear God, help us to carry the light of hope in our hearts. This Advent, help us to prepare our lives to receive the presence of the One who said: "I am the light of the world." Amen

**CHORAL RESPONSE BY CHOIR** "We Lift the Light of Hope" -  
Ken Bible & Oliver Holden

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings" No. 572

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 21: 25-36 pages 856-857

**MESSAGE** "Standing Tall" - Rich Fournier

**\*HYMN** "Now is the Time Approaching" (insert)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** "Share the Light" - J. M. Martin

**\*POSTLUDE**

\*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

### Announcements

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee has purchased 25 new pew Bibles. It was thought that some folks might want to donate the cost of a Bible and have it in memory of a loved one. The cost of each Bible is \$10. You can make your check payable to Mary Lyon Church and put pew Bible in the memo line, and let us know who you wish to have it in memory of.

From the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry: As we did last year at Christmas time we are giving each child who has been registered a \$100.00 gift card instead of clothes and toys. The program is now called "Sharing Gifts." If you would like to make a donation you can send a check to HILLTOWN Churches Food Pantry, Box 161, Ashfield, MA 01330. On the memo line of your check please write "Sharing Gifts" so that it goes into the Food Pantry account.

There will be a Christmas Carol Sing & Concert at the JaDuke Performing Arts Center in Turners Falls, on December 4th at 6:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to this FREE event. The singing will include many favorite Christmas carols, as well as selections from the 4D1G Gospel Quartet, and other gifted singers and musicians.

### HELP WANTED

If you know of someone who might be interested in the job of cleaning the church, please refer them to Judy Willis at 413-625-2649. It takes 1 – 2 hours per week and the rate of pay is currently \$14.00 per hour. Or, if you would like to volunteer, sign up with a friend to make it go faster and have fun. A list of duties will be provided. Please contact Judy Willis if you are interested in the job or volunteering.



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P.O. Box 87  
Buckland, MA 01338

