

Scripture: Luke 1:68-79

~Heather Thomson

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Sermon "Forgiven Toward Peace"

Hymn 155 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

Vs 2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, what warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Vs 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Light of Service *UCC Disaster Ministries* ~Jake Green

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

Offertory *The Glory of the Father* - E. Hovland

Doxology (two versions are offered) Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates

Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Donna Aakjar (Nancy Perry's sister), Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte), Jay Atkinson, Robert Battis (Leslie's father), Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend), Jack Bowman (former music director of Salisbury UCC), Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father), John Funchion, Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen's aunt and uncle), Judy Green, Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son), Nathan Hazeman (friend of David Bourne), Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin), Jim Korner (Liz Wilbur's brother), Bethany Lee, Serena Livingston (Kristin Mudge), Kathy Loomis (substitute preacher), Don Martin (Ruth Adotte), Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte), Bill Patrick (Lyn's husband) and family, Rev. Kenric and Debby Prescott, Constance Rotondo (Jane Williams), Desi Smith (Bonnie Greenwood), Ryan Sterba, Rob Thew, Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister), Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock), Judi Welch

Those who are grieving - the families of:

Kerry Garside, Stephen Getz, Jackie Hamad, The Rev. Paul Heller, Avery Nelson, Aaron Pelletier, Sue Pratt, Owen Simmons, Mary Sager

In the wider community:

Leigh Cappabianca (missionary in Turkey), Laura Smith (missionary in Venezuela), The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine - and all enduring ongoing violence, The people impacted by recent hurricanes Helene and Milton

CHANCES TO LEARN, LIVE & SERVE LOVE:

Angel Tree for Christmas 2024

Please click on the QR code at right and browse the gifts needed. Select the children that you would like to buy for by choosing the corresponding tag. Please note the number on the "tag" that you are choosing. In addition to putting the "tag" on the wrapped gifts, please also attach a list of what is being given. Wrapped gifts with the numbered "tag" on it need to be delivered to Church of Christ by noon next Sunday, December 8th. If you have any questions, please call Lisa McClave at 860-309-1443.



Christmas Eve Readers and Greeters Needed - Please contact Pastor Erick if you would like to greet people or read Scripture (or both) at either 5 PM or 10 PM on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to take part - of course, we particularly love to involve young people who may be home for the holidays. Thank you!

"Getting to Know Jesus" Continues This Week - Wed. at 7 PM - 12/11 & 12/18

All are welcome to join this Advent learning opportunity. Led by Pastor Erick, we are exploring Scripture and other writings about Jesus as we approach our celebration of his birth. For the final two sessions we will focus on: God in Flesh (Week Two), and Beyond Bethlehem (Week Three). No experience is needed. Our first session was inspiring, uplifting, enlightening - and a lot of fun! Please let Pastor Erick know if you plan to take part.

Administrative Assistant Position – Barb LaMere plans to retire at the end of this year – she will be missed! Please take a moment to thank Barb directly. Interested parties should contact office@cofcucc.org.

2025 Financial Support Needed - All are invited to join in making a pledge of support for 2025 so that we can continue to serve as a beacon of hope, peace, joy and love, a place where those who need help can find it. [Click Here to Indicate Your Support for 2025](#). Automated Monthly Giving is Available! To make a pledge, you may also call the church office (860-542-5721) Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM.

Total Pledged as of 12/6: \$43,090

Pledge Range: \$30 to \$7,500

Average Pledge: \$1,874

Reverse Advent Calendar Available - Please help stock the shelves of the Food Pantry by taking part in our tradition of a Reverse Advent Calendar. During December, you may use the guide available by clicking [HERE](#) to fill a box that we invite you to deliver to the Norfolk Food Pantry here in Battell Chapel. Thank you!

Coffee Mugs "to Go" - Anyone who purchased a custom-made coffee mug in the past is invited to take them home – thank you!

Christmas Wreaths on the church and chapel doors are given in memory of:

Our parents, Robert & Dolores Wolff, and Rev. B.F. Anderson; and our grandparents the Wolff, Wellman, Moller, and Anderson families by Eric and Sue Anderson; Ted and Elisabeth Childs and Darrell and Elaine Russ by Betsy Gill; Our parents Marian and Stanley Civco and Louise and Robert Tangarone by Stan and Marie Civco; Kenneth Satherlie and Karen & Jimmy Davidson by their families; Eve Thew by John, Ann, and Rob Thew; Kathalene White by Nels and Phyllis White

Christmas Memorial Flowers - If you are interested in sharing poinsettias or other flowers during these coming weeks in honor or memory of someone, please call the church office at (860) 542-5721 or email office@cofcucc.org. Thank you!

CAROL SING "On the Road" - All are welcome to join in the singing on Saturday, December 14 as the choir and friends (you included) take over the dining room at the [Falls Village Inn](#). Make your reservations soon as this traditional night could be a sellout!

Christmas Fête* Sunday During Sunday Worship on 12/22 in Battell Chapel – Please join in the Christmas fun as we celebrate with lots of special Christmas music, poetry, Scripture, and more during worship. Our 10 AM service will be followed by a special light luncheon and time for Christmas crafting. Free and open to all – please spread the word! (*"Fête" comes from the medieval Latin word festus, which means "holiday" or "party" – just right!)

"Clothes Closet" Donations Welcome

We would appreciate short jackets (no long coats). Thank you!

Food Pantry Items of the Week - This week the Food pantry especially needs: tea. cereal, Spam or canned chicken and empty egg cartons. Thank you!