First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ

Carols for Coming Hope
First Sunday in Advent



November 29, 2026

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

***Rise in body or in spirit**

Prelude

We invite you to use this time for silent prayer
and reflection as we prepare for worship.

Welcome and Announcements

WE ENTER THE MUSIC

(Choir)
Come to us, O Christ with singing,
Christ, our Hope, your dream is strong.
Come to us, Emmanuel!
O Christ, be our song!

Leader: Welcome to the Advent and Christmas season, my friends. This year we are going to focus on carols–both familiar and new–and pause to consider their messages in fresh ways. Like notes on a music staff, we are called to join together to sing songs that proclaim the renewed creation of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. As a popular quote attributed to Hans Christian Anderson says, "Where words fail, music speaks." Song poets–people who write carols–have long helped us "speak" when our own words fail in the face of our human struggle. The promise of the Coming Christ is that our hearts can hold the world and that the songs in our hearts can heal our weariness.

(Choir)
Come to us, O Christ with singing,
Christ, our Hope, your dream is strong.
Come to us, Emmanuel!
O Christ, be our song!

Candle Lighting

Leader:: Your response to each statement is "We sing for Hope!"
Let's try that together: **We sing for Hope!**
Reader: Lift your voices in praise to the Composer of our lives.
We sing for Hope!
Reader: Blend your tune in harmony with all people.
We sing for Hope!
Reader: Hang your note on the music staff of all creation.
We sing for Hope!
Reader: May this light bring hope to those feeling hopeless.
We sing for Hope!

Leader: As the first candle of our Advent wreath is lit, we begin our journey through this Advent season by acknowledging that, like the Hebrew poet Isaiah, we continue to hope for a better world for all people. Our opening carol, "O Come, O Come, Immanuel," is based on an ancient Latin text in which the original names for Christ in each verse, when viewed in reverse order, spell out *"Ero Cras,"* Latin for "tomorrow I come." We still wait for that tomorrow–we "dream of a turning from ages of wrong." I invite you to stand as you are comfortable for our opening carol.

***Opening Carol** NCH #116 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Opening Prayer

The Peace

Notes for the Children He Came Down

(Choir)

He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah for evermore.

WE LISTEN DEEPLY

First Reading Isaiah 11:6-9

A Carol for Listening Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming *trad, arr. Michael Praetoruis*

Second Reading Isaiah 11:1-5

Message Seeking Hope… Pastor Sue Davidson

WE RESPOND TO THE SOUNDS OF HOPE

Prayers of the People
Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn NCH #122 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (remain seated)

(Choir)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free… (Pause)

(Sung by ALL)

from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

One: Let us sing together. Sung to tune - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Our Offering

***Doxology** NCH #561 When in Our Music God is Glorified (verse1)

When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

WE TAKE OUR MUSIC TO THE WORLD

Benediction

Leader: A benediction is a blessing. In this season we are acknowledging the blessing that carols are, and have been, to the faith that sustains us. Whenever you hear a carol out in the world in the next few weeks, I hope you will breathe a prayer of thanks that hope has come, is coming, and will always be available to us because the Holy came to us and dwelt among us with a human love we could see and know and recognize.

So this year we will say our benediction blessing together:

"May Christ come to us now and always,
and may we have a song in our hearts to welcome Him."

***Closing Carol** NCH#104 We Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Postlude

Worship notes – Service liturgy used with permission by the Worship Design Studio – Dr Marcia McFee

Greeter: Jennifer Perkins
Ushers: Harry Smith and Jay Donabedian
Advent Candle Readers: Dan & Trina Jones
Liturgist: Laurel Ekberg

The altar flowers are given by Glenna Tibbetts, in loving memory of her brother, George Fernald, all to the glory of God.

Welcome to First Church of Christ! If you are visiting with us today, please note that there are two fire exits at the rear of the sanctuary and one at the back of the church through the kitchen. There are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the front entrance and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.
The doors to the church are locked at 10:10am on Sundays for everyone's safety. One of the doors in the back of the sanctuary is kept open for the Ushers to keep an eye out for any latecomers. Please knock on the glass if you need to get their attention.

Evelyn Porter is designated as The Coordinator of the Diaconates' Ministry of Greeting. If you would like her to send a card from the church to someone who is ill, grieving, celebrating, or who just needs a "pick-me-up" note; please call her at (603) 356-2881 or send her an email at **hambru35@yahoo.com**.

Mission Corner:

- **The Noisy Offering for November/December will go to the Vaughan Food Pantry.**

- **The 4th Quarter Mission Collection** will go to support **Heifer International** which works to end world hunger and poverty in sustainable ways.

- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** Pantry hours are shown in our *Week of Activities.* Checks can be made payable to: *Vaughan Community Service, Inc.* and placed in the collection plate.

Week of Activities:

Today: **First Sunday in Advent**
Pastor Sue Davidson, Leading Worship
Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm
Monday AA Noon-1pm;
Tuesday: Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm
Thursday: WIC Program 9:30am-2:30pm;
Food Pantry Open Noon-2:15pm;
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00pm;
Bell Choir Rehearsal 4:00-5:00pm;
Scouts of America Troup 150 & Pack 150 6:00-7:30pm
Friday: AA Noon-1pm
Sunday: **Second Sunday in Advent/Communion**
Pastor Sue Davidson, Leading Worship
Christmas Family Palooza following worship

Church Pledges for 2027

Just a reminder from Stewardship that you can still make your pledge for 2027 at any time. They are most useful in November as the 2027 Church Budget is being prepared. However, they will be accepted at any time. Thank you!

Our December Newsletter is full of good stuff and important dates! You'll find it in your mail, if requested, or by going online to our website at: https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/December2026.pdf

Church Address and Information

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2521 White Mountain Highway
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

Music Director: Laurie Turley
Church Administrator/Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton
Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins
Vaughan Learning Center Director: Heather Ouellette
Vaughan Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton
Church Sexton: Mark Schiller
Church Phone: 603-356-2324
Church Fax number: 603-356-2106
Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801
Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213
Church Office Email: **churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com**
Church Website: **www.firstchurchnc.com**
YouTube: **https://firstchurchnc.com/service-videos/**

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

To make giving even easier for those who don't carry cash or use checks, we've started using QR Code, in the bulletin. Just scan the code with your phone like you would in a restaurant!