

*First Congregational Church of River Edge
River Edge, New Jersey*

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Stewardship Commitment Sunday

November 13, 2011

10:00 am

**Those who are able please stand*

SILENCE *O God, our true home, we come together to unite our stories with those of our spiritual ancestors. Some of us have come from desert places, desperate for nourishment. Some of us come from places of abundant harvests and yet are not satisfied. You are among us all, a living God, present in ways we have not yet realized. We come to learn, to let what we learn mold and change us, to find courage and energy to live by your direction. We bring our worship, confident of your welcome to us. Amen.*

WELCOME

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Karnig Thomasian

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

During the Prelude, we invite you to take time to quiet your heart and discover anew God's presence in your life.

PRELUDE

Christ, You are the Fullness
The Pilgrim Ringers

Korean Melody,
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: As God's people, let us gather with joy!

People: **Secure in the knowledge of God's presence,**

Pastor: Wrapped in the warmth of God's love,

People: **Supported by the encouragement of God's people**

Pastor: And comforted by the assurance of God's peace.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION (seated)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

Holy God, we admit that we are quick to serve ourselves, and slow to serve others. We are eager to receive but reluctant to give. We are quick to grasp, but slow to sacrifice. We are slow to admit our faults and quick to point out the faults of others. Forgive us, we pray, for confusing our priorities, and help us to place our emphases where they belong. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Prayer for Mercy (Kyrie)

John Weaver

The Chancel Choir

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE (standing)

**Glory to the Creator,
the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three – in – One;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen.**

*PEACE OF CHRIST (standing)

Pastor: As we are forgiven in Jesus Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us extend to one another the peace of Christ...

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

Jesus, Jesus, Praise Him
The Carol and Nowell Choir

Traditional American

THE WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jayne Wieboldt

(Church School children, youth and staff may leave for their classes)

SCRIPTURE READING

Frank Meeks, *Lay Reader*

Matthew 22:15-22
Mark 12:41-44
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

#318

SERMON

Planting the Big Potatoes
(What Belongs to God?)

The Rev. Charles F. Holm

"...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6)

ORGAN RESPONSE

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem *View the Present through the Promise*
The Chancel Choir

Roy Hopp

*Doxology

*Unison Prayer of Dedication (standing)

**Giving God, we offer our gifts from the labor of our hands, the
exercise of our minds, from the love of our hearts, and with the
prayers of our spirits, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER

Holy, Holy, Holy
(sing three times)

Anon., Argentina

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN

Giving God, We Pause and Wonder

(insert)

*BENEDICTION

*This is a time for reflection and prayer, and we invite you to
remain seated in silence until the postlude is ended.*

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Jubilation

Richard E. Frey

DEACON /USHERS: ☩ Robert Owens, Robert Albrecht, Inge Reist, June Seilheimer,
Ronald Seilheimer, Roger Hall, John Hamilton

☩ Head Usher

COUNTERS: Ernest Myhren, Robert Owens, Diane Lento, Russ Van Wetering

GREETER: Amy, Marie and Don Herrick

LAY READER: Frank Meeks

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Meeks and Adria Brown

CHILD CARE: Joan Kuharetz and Kelly Kobbe

FELLOWSHIP TIME: Stewardship Board

Please turn off or silence all electronics before worship.

*

WELCOME, if you are a guest or visitor with us this morning! You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the plate as the offering is received.

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NURSERY AND CHILD CARE – is provided during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers in the Nursery on the lower level. Ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

*

LARGE PRINT HYMNS may be obtained from an usher.

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ALTAR FLOWERS - If you would like to donate altar flowers for one of our worship services, please contact our Flower Coordinator, Carole Meeks at 201-262-3020. The donation for the flowers is \$25.00. Flowers can be taken home after the service or given to one of our shut-ins. The deadline for ordering altar flowers is the Sunday prior to their being placed on the Altar.

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PRAYER CHAIN – You are welcome to put the name of a loved one, friend or neighbor on the Prayer List weekly. Call the church office at 201-261-1712, if you would like to add someone to the list. The Prayer List can be found in the bulletin. A Prayer List request form can be found in the Narthex each Sunday morning. Prayers DO make a difference.

*

DEVOTIONAL PAMPHLETS, “Care Notes,” and devotional guides, “The Upper Room,” are available in the church narthex. The rack is refreshed regularly. Please take these for your own use or for friends.

*

THE ALTAR FLOWERS which enrich our worship this morning are in celebration of Greg and Rosemarie Wieboldt’s 20th wedding anniversary with love from their family.

*

SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS NEEDED – Donations for the Second Sunday’s program are needed. If you would like to help, please see Anna Lou Kuenzler during Fellowship Time. Second Sunday is our congregation’s ministry to our developmentally challenged friends of our church and community.

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CHRISTMAS CANTATA REHEARSALS CONTINUE! A Christmas Cantata will be presented at the 10:00 a.m. service of worship on Sunday, December 11. The Cantata Choir, along with soloists, instrumentalists, and narrators, will offer "Follow the Star, Follow the King," with music by Lloyd Larson, Mary MacDonald, Douglas E. Wagner and Mark Hayes. You are invited to support the Cantata by giving a gift in honor of, or in memory of someone. Checks should be made out to The First Congregational Church, and marked

CANTATA GIFT on the memo line. Acknowledgement of these gifts will be made in the December 11 Bulletin.

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COMMUNITY INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE – The annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the River Dell Clergy Association, will be held on Sunday, November 20, 4:00 PM, at Temple Avodat Shalom, 385 Howland Avenue, River Edge. Faith communities taking part in the service will include Temple Avodat Shalom, First Congregational Church of River Edge, Grace Lutheran Church of River Edge, Central Unitarian Church of Paramus, St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church of River Edge, and Church of the Annunciation (Episcopal), Oradell. Everyone is invited!

*

OUR 2011 CHRISMON is an *Angel*. These will be sold by the members of the Board of Christian Education at Fellowship Time. The price for the Chrismon is \$3.00 each.

*

CHAIR LIFT TO FELLOWSHIP HALL – The Chair Lift is located in the hallway at the exit by the pulpit. Please let one of the ushers know you will need assistance.

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The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

- 8:45 am – Adult Study (Library)
- 9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am – Carol/Nowell Choir
Rehearsal
- 10:00 am – Worship Service/
Church School/ Child Care
- 10:00 am – Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am – Fellowship Time
- 11:30 am – Woodruff Committee
(Pastor's Study)
- 12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church
- 4:30 pm - Second Sunday Group

Monday, November 14, 2011

- 12:00 Noon – Al-Anon
- 7:30 pm – Adult Study (Library)

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

- 7:00 pm – Board of Trustees
(Board Room)
- 7:00 pm – Vision Team (Library)

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

- 12:00 Noon – Adult Study (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm – AA
- 7:30 pm – Christian Education
Planning Team
- 8:00 pm – Korean Baptist Church

Thursday, November 17, 2011

- 3:15 pm – Girl Scout Troop #185
- 7:00 pm – Bell Choir
- 8:10 pm – Cantata Choir

Friday, November 18, 2011

- 7:00 pm – Tri-County Pipe & Drum
Rehearsal

Saturday, November 19, 2011

- 8:30 am – KWIS
- 1:00 pm – Wedding Rice/Azzone
- 7:00 pm – AA

Sunday, November 20, 2011

- 9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am – Carol/Nowell Choir
Rehearsal
- 10:00 am – Worship Service/
Church School/ Child Care
- 10:00 am – Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am – Fellowship Time
- 12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church
- 4:00 pm – Thanksgiving Community
Interfaith Service at Temple
Avodat Shalom

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Our Mission

Our mission is to worship God, care for one another, and witness to Jesus Christ in our community and the world.

Our Vision

We seek to be a dynamic community of faith committed to spiritual growth, following Christ's example and God's Word. Respecting our past and recognizing today's challenges, we move forward with diverse worship, education, mission and compassionate care for all.

*First Congregational Church
109 Continental Avenue
River Edge, New Jersey 07661*

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone (201) 261-1712

Website – www.fccriveredge.org

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

*Church Office Hours: Monday to Friday
9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm*

Church Staff

The Rev. Charles F. Holm Pastor	cfhcfhrev@aol.com 201-483-8717 (home)
Gloria Norton, S.M.M. Director of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Theresa Wallace Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org

Annual Chrismon Service
Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 4:00 PM

Sanctuary of
First Congregational Church
River Edge, New Jersey

A **CHRISMON** is one of a number of Christian Symbols intended to represent aspects of the person, life or ministry of Jesus Christ and the life, ministry or history of the Church. Chrismon ornaments are used to decorate trees during Advent and Christmas. Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to God's purity and perfection; gold to majesty and glory. Often small lights are used on Chrismon Trees to point to Christ as the light of the world.

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CHRISMON REHEARSAL – Sunday, November 27, 4:00 pm in Pilgrim Hall for all children, youth and adults participating in the Chrismon Service. There will be only one rehearsal this year. Please mark your calendar.

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ANNUAL CHILDREN'S TOY AND CLOTHING COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS – The Board of Christian Education asks that as you begin your Christmas shopping, please remember to purchase a winter clothing item or toy for a child/youth, infants through age 14. These **NEW UNWRAPPED** winter clothing items and toys will be placed under the sanctuary tree during the Chrismon Service to be held on Sunday, December 4, 4:00 PM. This year we are working with the Bergen County Community Action Partnership, which will pick up the clothing and toys from the church and distribute them to the children and youth of Bergen County's neediest families. Thank you!

VIEW THE PRESENT THROUGH THE PROMISE

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.
Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.
Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing
in the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise, let your daily actions witness,
let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving
be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise, make this hope your guiding
premise,
pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating
to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

text by Thomas H. Troeger