

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

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Third Sunday of Advent**

December 11, 2011

10:00 am

**Those who are able please stand*

SILENCE *Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.*

WELCOME

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

Ornament of Grace
Mary Stephenson, violin

Bernard Wayne Sanders

INTROIT

Come Now, Savior of the Nations
The Cantata Choir

Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O sing to the Lord a new song.

People: Sing all the earth for the Light is coming!

Pastor: Awaken our drowsy hearts to the message of love.

People: Stir our darkness that we may hear again love's wonderful song.

Pastor: May we carry the glad tidings to all the world.

People: And in his name may our worship begin!

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Tom, Cathy, Dana and Kim Johnson

CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE (seated)

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

**O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

ORGAN RESPONSE

**(During this Organ Response, Church School children,
youth and staff may leave for their classes.)**

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION (seated)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

Forgive us, God, if in the busyness of these weeks we have not taken the time to ponder and pray. Forgive us, God, if we observe Christmas merely as an event of two thousand years ago, without receiving the Christ who lives and speaks today. Forgive us, God, if we have been so caught up in the parties and festivities that we miss the awesome miracle of the incarnation. Forgive us, God, if we are preparing to celebrate Christmas as mere sentiment, an emotional tribute to a cute baby, without honoring Christ as the Savior of the world and the Lord of life. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Prayer for Mercy (Kyrie)
The Chancel Choir

John Weaver

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. 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Russell Van Wetering, *Lay Reader*

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

OT. pg. 691

Luke 1:46-55

NT. pg. 59

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTATA

Follow the Star, Follow the King

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|------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| I. | Come to Set Thy People Free | Lloyd Larson |
| II. | To Bethlehem | Douglas E. Wagner |
| III. | Rejoice, I Say Rejoice | Larry Shackley |
| IV. | Arise, Arise and Shine! | Mary McDonald |
| V. | Light and Life to All! | Lloyd Larson |

Narration by: Jean Anne Shafferman

ORGAN RESPONSE

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, OFFERINGS

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem *Laudamus te (from GLORIA)* Antonio Vivaldi
Carol Richardi and Signe Myhren, mezzo sopranos
Mary Stephenson, violin

*We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you for your great glory. (sung in Latin)*

*Doxology

*Unison Prayer of Dedication (standing)

Giving God, as we offer our gifts, we also offer a prayer that during this Advent season the selfless spirit of Christ may become increasingly incarnate in our lives. Use our lives. Use our offerings, and use us, to your glory and for your people. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

#145

*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Come Now, Savior of the Nations

J.S. Bach

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DEACON /USHERS: ☩ William Lins, Don Herrick, Fred Miller, Russell Van Wetering,
Chet Price

☩ Head Usher

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

GREETERS: Donna and Bill Mars

LAY READER: Russell Van Wetering

ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Heinzinger and Ruth Smith

CHILD CARE: Christine Banks and Kathy Caughlan

FELLOWSHIP TIME: Board of Christian Education

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Tom, Cathy, Dana and Kim Johnson

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Please turn off or silence all electronics before worship.

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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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CANTATA

NARRATORS: Amy Herrick and Bill Lins
PIANO: Pam Weiler
VIOLIN: Mary Stephenson
ALTO SAXOPHONE: Michael Phillips
HANDBELLS: Chris Braden
DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST: Gloria Norton

MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR:

Sopranos: Doris Chatellier, Cynthia Fordham, Joanne Hernandez, Gloria Holm, Joan Ledgerwood, Carol Richardi, Beth Shuler, Barbara Wieboldt, Jayne Wieboldt.

Altos: Christine Egner, Cynthia Hamilton, Susan Lento, Kathleen Motoike, Signe Myhren, Alice Rushforth, Erin Smith

Tenors: John Braden, Anna Lou Kuenzler, Donna Mars, Nate Mello

Basses: James Berrie, Bill Mars, Michael Phillips, Bert Schmitt, Tim Wallace

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We are grateful to the following whose generous gifts
have helped to make today's cantata possible:

Robert and Hilma Albrecht
in honor of Virginia Perrow

The Drummond Family
in honor of Adrienne and Fred Stagg

Bob and Chris Egner

Bill and Cindy Fordham

Joanne Hernandez

Anna Lou Kuenzler

Joan Ledgerwood
in memory of Byron Ledgerwood and Ron Patterson

The Lento Family
in memory of Russell Haystrand

Jon and Gloria Norton

Alice and Tom Rushforth

Linda and Dan Stark
in honor of the Pilgrim Ringers

The Phillips/Weiler Family

Barbara and Bob Wieboldt
in gratitude for our family and friends

Jayne Wieboldt
in honor of Sally Zick

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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.

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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.

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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.

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**COPIES OF PROPOSED NEW CHURCH
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AVAILABLE**

Copies of the proposed new Church Constitution and Bylaws are now available on the narthex table or from the Church Office. The congregation will be asked to vote on the document at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2012.

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS which enrich our worship today are provided by the church's Flower Fund.

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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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PLEDGE CARDS – A solid financial commitment from our members and friends helps First Congregational Church of River Edge grow and thrive. Please remember to return your 2012 pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Pledge cards are on the table in the Narthex.

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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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PECANS – The Pecans have arrived! These mammoth size pecans are great for holiday baking or eating by the handful. They are sold in one pound bags at \$10.00 each. Their shelf life is three months or longer if placed in the freezer. The Pecans will be sold at Fellowship Time by members of Women's Fellowship or you may contact Michelle Heinzinger at 201-265-9057 to place an order.

Come Now, Savior of the Nations

Michael Burkhardt

Savior of the nations, come.
Promised One, make here your home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

text by Geonyong Lee, Marion Pope,
Ambrose of Milan and Martin Luther
Sung partly in Korean

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, December 11, 2011

8:30 am – Cantata Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am – Carol/Nowell Choir
Rehearsal
10:00 am – Worship Service/Cantata/
Church School/Child Care
11:00 am – Fellowship Time
12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church
4:30 pm – Second Sunday Program

Monday, December 12, 2011

12:00 Noon – Al-Anon
7:00 pm – Vision Team
7:30 pm – Women’s Fellowship
Executive Board at Michelle
Heinzinger’s home

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

7:00 pm – Board of Trustees
7:30 pm – Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

7:00 pm – AA
7:30 pm – Board of Deacons

Thursday, December 15, 2011

1:00 pm – Shawl Ministry
3:15 pm – Girl Scout Troop #185
7:00 pm - Bell Choir
8:10 pm - Chancel Choir

Friday, December 16, 2011

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

Saturday, December 17, 2011

8:30 am – KWIS
7:00 pm – AA

Sunday, December 18, 2011

9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am – Carol/Nowell Choir
Rehearsal
10:00 am – Worship Service/Church
School/ Bagel Breakfast Party/
Special Movie (Pilgrim Hall) /Child
Care
10:00 am – Confirmation Class
11:00 am – Fellowship Time
12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church

