

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

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
Second Sunday of Christmas**

**January 1, 2012**

**10:00 am**

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*\*Those who are able please stand*

SILENCE     *O God, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have gifted us with food and drink. You have been with us through times of laughter and days of weeping. You have comforted us in the midst of pain and confronted us in the needs of our neighbors. You have called us to responsibility for the well-being of this planet and the welfare of all your people. Come among us once more to equip us for the tasks you set before us in this new year. Amen.*

WELCOME

Alice Rushforth

**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

*Variations on "God Rest Ye Merry"*

Kevin Norris

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor:     This is the time for worship and praise!  
                 This is a day for song and celebration!

**People:     God calls us away from our toll.  
                 God invites us to examine our life and times**

Pastor:     God wills our happiness and enjoyment of life.  
                 God gives each of us important work to do.

**People:     God wants our work to give us pleasure.  
                 Our witness to God's glory brings fulfillment.**

Pastor:     Let us celebrate the past and anticipate the future  
                 Let us rejoice that God is present with us now.

**People:     There is a season for every matter under heaven.**

**WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

**Amazing God, as we ponder your vast creation, we are awed by what we see and all we cannot see. We have been so busy that we have forgotten how small and insignificant we are amid the far reaches of time and space. Yet you honor and value us as if each of us were your crowning achievement. You care for us as if we were of highest worth. O God, reorder our priorities so we can begin to live up to your high expectations. Forgive our faltering ways. Embrace us in your tender mercy. We long to be made new. 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

**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

Karnig Thomasian, *Lay Reader*

*Luke 14:7-14*

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Mighty Are the Meek*

The Rev. David L. Robertson

ORGAN RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem

*Aria: "God Rest Ye Merry"*

Kevin Norris

The Chancel Choir

\*Doxology

\*Unison Prayer of Dedication (standing)

**For all we have gathered through our toil, we give you thanks, O God. For all we have claimed at the expense of others, we beg your forgiveness. May the programs we support through our offering fulfill your expectations of us, here in this community and wherever you direct us to act. We seek to treat all people as a little less than God, made in your image and valued by you, crowned with glory and honor. Use us and our gifts to establish your realm. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION (dipping)

*Communion will be served by intinction. All who wish to partake are invited to come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and eat right away. Please return to your pew by way of the side aisles.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*BENEDICTION

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

\*POSTLUDE

*Finale: "God Rest Ye Merry"*

Kevin Norris

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DEACON /USHERS: ☩ Wayne Placek, Bob Owens, Carole Meeks, William Lins  
Janet Arena, Alice Rushforth, Jane Silane, Vic Babington, Diane Rolfs

☩ Head Usher

COUNTERS: Robert Albrecht, Betty Hogan, Kathy Caughlan

GREETER: Betty Hogan

LAY READER: Karnig Thomasian

ALTAR GUILD: Diane Lento and Noreen Van Wetering

FELLOWSHIP TIME: Congregational Sharing



*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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**SPECIAL WELCOME** to the pulpit this morning to the Rev. David L. Robertson. Rev. Holm is away on vacation.

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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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**BOXES OF OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2012 are available in the Parlor. Please pick up yours today.

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**LARGE PRINT HYMNS** may be obtained from an usher.

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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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**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** which enrich our worship this morning are provided by the church’s Flower Fund.

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**SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS NEEDED** – Donations for 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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**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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**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, January 1, 2012**

10:00 am – Worship Service/Communion/Child Care  
11:00 am – Fellowship Time  
12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church

## **Monday, January 2, 2012**

*Church Office Closed*

12:00 Noon – Al-Anon

## **Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

*Deadline for Annual Reports*

## **Wednesday, January 4, 2012**

7:00 pm – AA

## **Thursday, January 5, 2012**

3:15 pm – Girl Scout Troop #185  
6:30 pm – Un-decorating the Church  
7:30 pm – Board of Christian Education  
7:00 pm – Bell Choir  
8:10 pm – Chancel Choir

## **Friday, January 6, 2012**

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

## **Saturday, January 7, 2012**

8:30 am – KWIS

7:00 pm – AA

## **Sunday, January 8, 2012**

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  
11:15 am – Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)  
Fellowship Time to follow  
12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church  
4:30 pm – Second Sunday Program

## **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  
River Edge, New Jersey*

### **CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION**

*Phone (201) 261-1712*

*Website – [www.fccriveredge.org](http://www.fccriveredge.org)*

*Church Office e-mail – [office@fccriveredge.org](mailto: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

## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 8, 2012, immediately following the morning service, to hear the report of the Vision Team as they present a proposed new Church Constitution and By-Laws.

Alice Rushforth  
Church Clerk

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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.