

East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of
God, in loving memory of Mrs. Bessie S. Allard.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net

* **OPENING HYMN** *"How Firm a Foundation"* **#529**

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ministry Matters)

L: The Lord will fulfill all the promises given to God's people

P: Praise be to God.

L: The days are coming when all shall be revealed.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: The signs of God's Good News are all around us.

P: The darkness has overshadowed them.

L: God will bring to us a new light for all generations.

P: Open our eyes, Lord, to see your promises fulfilled.

AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

We can hardly believe it, God. The Advent season is upon us. We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY. But when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape, and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of your absolute love. Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today to behold your gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all your promises. We ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: Today we light one candle - the candle called HOPE, as a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: We place our hope in God.

Reader 1: We place our lives in God's care.

Reader 2: Come, all is ready. Let the light of this one candle, called HOPE, bring brightness to your spirits.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

A New Thing, Again

Rev. Nancy Wichmann

* **HYMN** *"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"* **#557**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

It is so easy for us, God, to let the anger, frustration, and fear overshadow our lives. We can't seem to escape it. We try to find some way to cover it up, but it remains. And in our anxiety, we act out our fear in ways which are not helpful and, far too often, go against the ways you have taught us to live. We feel the pressure to give, and resentment in giving. We feel the push to be present at every upcoming event, and want to run and hide. Help us, Lord. Heal our wounded spirits. Free us again to look to you for Hope. Let us see the many ways in which you are present to us: guiding, healing, loving, and encouraging us. Forgive us for our fears and our stubbornness. Bring us again to your light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**L. Please greet your neighbors with the blessing: "The peace of Christ be with you."
P. And also with you.**

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Come, O Redeemer, Come"

sung by Ron

*** DOXOLOGY**

No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

*** HYMN**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(vs. 1, 2, 3)

#211

*** BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”* **#431**

*Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.*

POSTLUDE *“From Heaven Above”*

arr. Wilbur Held

**Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says God, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “God is our righteousness.” (New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our Godself and our Savior Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may God make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 That your hearts may so strengthened in holiness that you may be blameless before our God at the coming of our Savior Jesus with all the saints. (New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

Luke 21:25-36

25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see ‘the Son of the Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of the Man.”

(New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

Church of Christ and ministries of East
 Parish United Methodist Church
 All who struggle with their faith
 Family and friends of Ashley Fowler
 (Craig's brother)
 Family and friends of Deb McAdams
 Family and friends of Vicki Hall
 Family and friends of John Kelly
 Family and friends of Becky Barstock
 Sue Mitchells' family and friends
 Salisbury and Newburyport Assisted
 Living and Memory Care Residents
 Mike Gilbert, and Alana
 Alana's Sister in Law
 Buddy Merrick's Wife
 Steve Smith
 Julie Allred
 Steve Csengody (Sandy's BIL)
 Steven Lombardo (Courtney's BIL)
 Colleen Sanford
 Corey Amlin (BIL of Martha Murray)
 Chris, Gary, Percy, Sheryl, Peter
 (friends of Jan Pretty)

The Arrison family
 Kate (Jan's friend)
 Harry (Jodie's husband)
 William Seal
 Gail and Jemma
 People of Danvers
 Children, especially orphans
 Victims of natural disasters
 Victims of sexual abuse and assault
 Division in The United Methodist
 Church
 For those whose voices are so often
 ignored
 For the slain everywhere and all
 victims of violence
 Deplorable treatment of refugees and
 asylum-seekers on the southern border
 of the US
 All who have suffered with, because of,
 or died from COVID-19 or addiction.
 For our country, desperately in need of
 unity and humanity

United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

Pastor.....	Pastor Nancy Wichmann (781)697-6344 (C)
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Building Monitor.....	Craig Fowler
Lay Leader.....	Jan Juntunen 978- 518-7881
Organist.....	Linda Ingram
Sexton.....	Steve Choate (978)462-4578
Coffee Hour Coordinator.....	Debbie Choate dcpertl@verizon.net (978)462-4578
Worship Committee.....	Debbie Choate dcpertl@verizon.net (978)462-4578

Ministers.....The Congregation

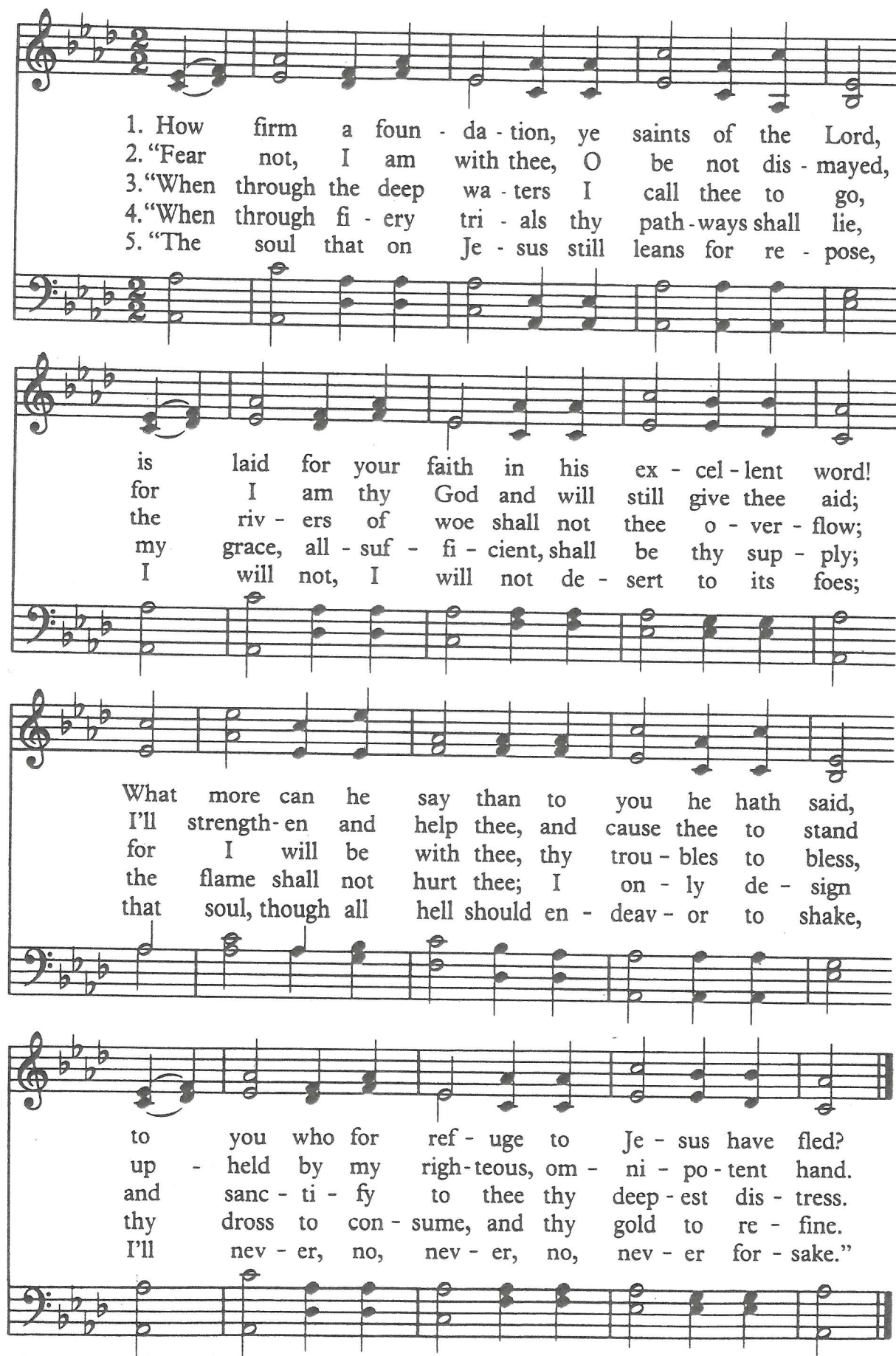
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Website: www.eastparishumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eastparishumcSalisbury>

How Firm a Foundation

529



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - ways shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual
 4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us

Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be


kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782


MUSIC: Johann G. Nægeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
SM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

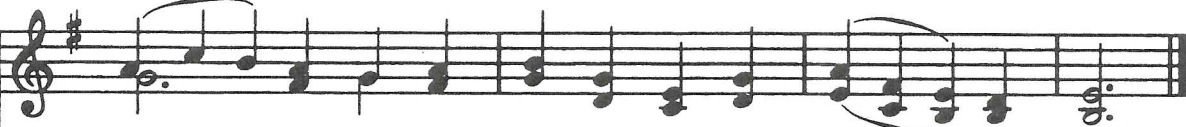


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

Refrain



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-
 in cloud and maj-es - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.