

## Offering

## Offertory

(Congregation is invited to sing along)

Help Me Wait

(Songbook #101)

Hymnal #94

## Presentation of Gifts with Doxology

*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 (unison)

**O God, in the waiting of Advent, may we be alert to those in need, and use our resources to fill their lives with hope, grace, and joy. We pray in the name of the One we await. Amen.**

## Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper)

*Communion is served by intinction. You are invited to come forward when indicated by the pastor, beginning with those seated along the side aisles making their way to the back of the sanctuary and then coming forward down the center aisle to receive the elements. Those seated along the center aisle or in the balcony will then come forward down the center aisle. Where feasible, all are encouraged to return to their seats via the side aisle.*

*The communion elements are non-alcoholic juice and bread. Gluten-free elements are offered as well.*

## Life and Mission of the Church

### \*Hymn

“Lift Up your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

(Hymnal #213)

## Going Out to Do God's Word

## Benediction

## Postlude

Wake the Night is Flying

(Arr. By Gilbert Martin)

\*Please Stand if you are able

**Should you need a ride to church or events for any reason, contact [donnafellinger@vt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellinger@vt@gmail.com) (802-355-1700)**

**NOTE:** The lighted flame entering the sanctuary at the beginning of worship symbolizes the Light of Christ coming into our midst. The pastor follows the Light in this procession, seeking to reflect that Light in leading the worship service.

# Williston Federated Church

*United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ – Federated 1899*

*An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

## Mission Statement

*Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God's love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, goes into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ, and responds actively to human need.*



*Pastor ~ Reverend Paul Eyer 878-5792, [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)*

*Emeritus Pastor ~ Rev. Charlie Magill*

*Lay Leader ~ Ashley Dubois, Ministers ~ The People of the Church*

*Church Office Administrator ~ Sally Nowotarski*

*Music Director ~ Martin Hain, Organist ~ Carolyn Pillsbury*

*Choir Accompanist ~ Cindy Thurston, Nursery Caregiver ~ Michelle Davis*

*44 North Williston Road, Williston, VT 05495*

*Church Office: (802) 878-5792, e-mail address: [office@steeple.org](mailto:office@steeple.org), Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)*

# Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

December 3, 2017 ~ 9:30 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for young children.

Hearing assistance devices are available – please ask an usher for assistance.

## Centering Words

*“Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace.”*

Edward Hays, A Pilgrim’s Almanac, 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## Words of Welcome/ Call to Worship:

Ashley Dubois

Lay Leader, Williston Federated Church

One: Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.

**Many: For the faithful God is coming to us.**

One: Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.

**Many: For the Faithful God speaks of good news to us.**

One: Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.

**Many: For the faithful spirit is moving among us.**

## Prelude

Meditation on “O Come Emmanuel”

(arr. by Gilbert M. Martin)

## Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

## Greeting and Announcements

**Sharing the Peace of Christ** (a brief time of greeting other worshipers nearby)

## \*Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

(Hymnal #196)

## Lighting the Peace Candle

### \*Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jenny Rousseau and Henri

One: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. We put our hope in the one to come, the Promised One who comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the Lord. In him we trust that we will be led to live on the high mountain of God. We light this candle of hope. *(Light candle.)*

**Many: Hear our prayer, O God, as we look hopefully for the coming of Christ anew in our lives.**

## Anthem

Come, Child of Peace

(by Ruth Elaine Schram)

## Listening for God’s Word

## Time with Children of All Ages

## Scripture readings

Old Testament: pages 694-695

Isaiah 64:1-9

Gospel: pages 50-51

Mark 13:24-37

## Sermon

“Keep Alert”

Pastor Paul Eyer

## \*Hymn

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

(Hymnal #626)

## Responding to God’s Word

## Celebrations and Concerns

**Prayers of the People.** Response: **Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

## Pastoral Prayer

## Silent Meditation

## The Lord’s Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine in the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Friday Morning Men's 7:00am Bible Study**

is looking at the lectionary readings for the week, thinking about them, and discussing their meaning for our lives. After the meetings everyone who has time is invited to go out to breakfast together. All the men associated with the church are encouraged to join the group, for one Friday or for more. For additional information, contact Ken Stone, [kmstonevt@aol.com](mailto:kmstonevt@aol.com)

### **From the Education Committee:**

An important mission of the Church is the religious education of our children. We have wonderful, amazing, kind and loving children. It lifts one's spirit to spend time with them. We need a teacher for the children ages 9 to 13. This class has a potential of about 10 children each week and they are great to work with. We have curriculum which provides many fun activities with which to teach the lessons. The next session is January through March. Someone please volunteer!!! If you prefer to work with the younger children, who are a real delight, there can be an opening there as well. Please contact Susan Lamb or any member of the education committee. **THANKS!**

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### **Williston Federated Church Sign Policy Adopted by Official Board 11/14/17**

All signs posted outside the Williston Federated Church must be placed on the church property inside the sidewalk and not on the Town of Williston right of way (between the sidewalk and the road). Signs announcing regular church events (i.e. Chicken Pie Supper, Christmas Bazaar, Community Dinners, Rummage Sale, etc) may be placed on the church property leading up to the event. All other signs (i.e. special events, fundraisers, ethical stance, etc) must be approved by the Official Board before being displayed.

*Liturgical resources: The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Lectionary Liturgies" prepared by by Presybterian Pastor Thom Shuman and found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. The Advent Candle ceremony is adapted from a liturgy found at <https://www.liturgylink.net/category/advent/candle-liturgy/>.*

**Greeters:** Rick and Barb Bristol **Coffee:** Sally Metro

**Ushers:** Brian, Amy, Lauren and Logan Vaughn

**Scripture Reader:** Sue Leister

**Communion Assistants:** Rebecca Dubois, Charlie Magill and Donna Sue Hain

### **Williston Federated Church ~ Week of December 3, 2017**

**Monday, Dec 4 ~ 7:00pm Trustee Meeting**

**Wednesday, Dec 6 ~ 6:30pm Finance Meeting; 7:30pm AA**

**Thursday, Dec 7 ~ 8:00am Centering; 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal**

**Friday, Dec 8 ~ 7:00am Men's Bible Study**

**Saturday, Dec 9 ~ 9:00am Alanon; 3:30pm Kids4Peace Overnight**

**Sunday, Dec 10~ 9:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Eyer**

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### **Arrangement on Altar**

The greens on the altar have been provided by Donna Fellingner ~ In Memory of her Mom, Emma-May Schmidt.

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### **December Book Club and Pot Luck Dinner**

Thank you to Jane Stickney who hosted our November book club meeting. Our next meeting will be on December 5, 5:30pm at the home of Shirley Rounds at 119 Honeysuckle Ln. We will discuss the book, 'The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper' by Phaedra Patrick. Please RSVP to Shirley at 878-6399 or to [rsrounds1@gmail.com](mailto:rsrounds1@gmail.com). All women are welcome. Please try to join us. Lois Mason

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**Alternative Gift Shop** - Looking for a creative gift for that special someone for Christmas? The Alternative Gift Shop will be open in the Fellowship Hall right after church on **December 3, 10, and 17** for your shopping convenience. Many great programs, organizations, and projects are available to choose from so you can make a donation in someone's name this holiday season. **A change this year is that checks should be made out to Williston Federated Church, rather than to the organization, with the name of the organization(s) and the amount to be donated on the memo line.** The church will send the donations to the various organizations directly.

Questions? Contact Ann Wadsworth at [ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com) or 578-8716.

**Cards will be available for the following organizations:**

Camp Agape  
COTS  
Dismas House  
Good News Garage  
Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity  
Heifer Project International  
Howard Center  
Hunger Free Vermont  
JUMP  
Kids 4 Peace  
King Street Youth Center  
NAMI-VT (National Alliance for Mental Illness-Vermont)  
Project Chacocente  
Spectrum  
STEPS Vermont  
Summer Recreation Food Program  
VT Refugee Resettlement Project  
VT Respite House  
WFC Community Dinners  
Williston Food Shelf

**Christmas Giving Tree ~**

Lisa Bellaveau will provide a tree again this year. Ken Stone agreed to put up the tree as soon as it is delivered to the church and gift tags will be hung and available for parishoners to take on 11/26. Gifts should be wrapped and returned with the tag attached no later than 12/17. Bags of gifts for each family will be assembled following the service on 12/17 and delivered on 12/18.

**Kids4Peace VT/NH**

Kids4Peace VT/NH will be holding a retreat for kids and staff alumni of past camps at Williston Federated Church during a December weekend. Each reunion is a joyful gathering that includes a sleep-over, games, shared meals and cultures, and skill-building in peace leadership.

Things are changing for Kids4Peace summer camps: Rising 7th and 8th graders from the three Abrahamic faiths in American chapters will hold camp for 8 days (rather than 12) since these camps will not have international students; they will be held in a two year cycle. The third year cycle will be international with Muslim, Jewish and Christian kids from Israeli and American chapters meeting at a large camp in North Carolina. The fourth year cycle will be international with camper & staff alumni meeting in Washington D.C. for the 10 day Global Institute. The kids will visit the US Peace Center and Department of State to use their skills as ambassadors to lobby for peaceful international policies. Through the years, the kids are empowered to apply their faith in becoming leaders for a better world.

The dates for this summer's VT/NH summer camp will be determined soon and posted in our newsletter. Nancy Stone can fill you in on her experiences over the past 9 years if you'd like to learn more sooner. Or, go on-line to Kids4Peace Vermont