

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” Matthew 11:11

* Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able

***** ***** *****

LET US GATHER

PRELUDE *Let All Mortal Flesh* *F.Ritter*

WELCOME to ALL!

*No matter who you are or where you are on your life’s journey,
you are welcome here.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Happy are they whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**ALL: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

One: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger; who sets the captive free; who cares for the stranger; and sustains
the orphan and the widow.

**ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God. Give us joy in your coming that we
may bear witness in our lives and world to your light and life.
Amen.**

LET US PREPARE

*HYMN *Awake! Awake, and Greet The New Morn* *B107*

UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER (trespasses)

In your presence, loving God, there is fullness of joy. We gather today
trusting that presence and seeking that joy. Strengthen our faith in your

coming that we may walk in your ways in paths of justice and peace,
preparing our hearts and world for the Messiah who comes not to fulfill our
expectations, but your holy will; the same Jesus Christ who taught us to pray,
saying, “Our Father...”

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: The Candle of Joy
Susan Peterson

Sing *O Come O Come Emanuel (Unison, first 3 verses, see insert)*

LET US LISTEN

READINGS Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

HYMN *All Earth Is Waiting* *B121*

REFLECTION *Flexspectation*

ANTHEM *Advent Promise* *P.Martin*

You are invited into a moment of silence for personal reflection.

LET US RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying; Send us *hope*, send us *peace*, send us *joy*.

L: Let the people say ...
P: **Amen and Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Musical Meditation*
*DOXOLOGY *B778 (tune: B780: Bourgeois, 1551)*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION (UNISON)
**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you
have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our**

possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in this offering to bless the work of this church and to feed the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us: Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

LET US GO FORTH

*HYMN Joy To The World R130

*BENEDICTION

*AMEN AMEN!

POSTLUDE Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying J.G.Walther
arr. E.Broughton

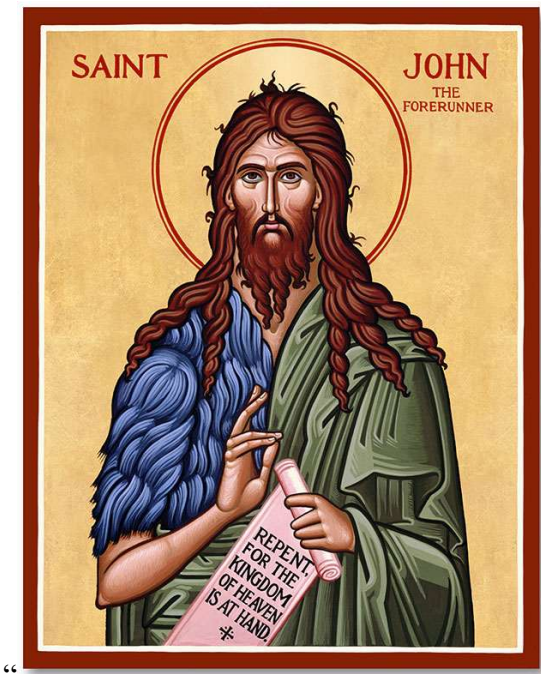
Ministers: The People
Guest Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wilfrid
Minister of Music: Gene Faxon
Worship Leader: Marcia Breckenridge
Greeter: John & Susan Denley
Ushers: Pam & Bruce Hill
Setup: Lisa Giragosian

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately following worship for coffee

The bulletin cover artwork today is an Icon of St. John the Baptist, the Forerunner of Jesus. The Icon, from Monastery Icons of Wisconsin, illustrates Saint John as the patron of many things, including the monastic life, converts, printers, and tailors.

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December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

The First Church in Jaffrey
Gathered 1780

A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ
On the Common – Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire

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you are welcome here.