



November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love
and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome

Rachel Robicheau

Guided Breath & Centering Moment

Prayer

Rev. Timoth Sylvia

Opening Music: O Come Emmanuel

Entry Into Worship/Advent Candle Lighting

Cheryle Totten

One: On Sundays and Mondays,
on good days and hard days,
in a world that feels unsteady,
in a season that begins with shadows
God, we long for you to break in.

**Many: Meet us in this moment.
Surprise us with your presence.
Fill us with your good news.**

One: In the time of Herod,
when fear ruled,
when power clung tight,
when the world felt dangerous and fragile,
HOPE still found a way.
So in a world full of fear, where do we see HOPE?

**Many: We see HOPE in those who refuse to give up.
We feel HOPE when we gather together.
We know HOPE, deep in our bones,
when we dream of a world made new.**

One: Even in the time of Herod, HOPE was all around.
And today we light the candle of HOPE.
We light this candle as a reminder of this good news,
that fear does not get the final word,
and light is always breaking in.

**Many: HOPE takes root here.
Light begins here.
Love is born here.**

Scripture: Lamentations 3: 55-57

Cheryle Totten

Gospel: Luke 1: 5-13

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

Sacred Stories for All

Jennifer Harris Dault

Music: Show Up

Sermon: What Do You Fear? In the Time of Herod

Rev. Timoth Sylvia

Music: Waiting For You

Affirmation (Unison)

Rachel Robicheau

**We have lived in fearful days.
We have felt the weight of empire.
We have known the ache of longing,
and still, we believe.**

**We believe God broke into the time of Herod,
into a world shaped by violence,
uncertainty, and despair.
We believe God breaks into our world still...
into our fear, our waiting, our weariness.**

**We believe that every trembling prayer is heard.
We believe that hope rises even in the shadows.
We believe that good news begins quietly—
like a spark in the longest night.**

**So even when fear sits close,
even when the path feels unclear,
even when waiting stretches long,
we will hold onto hope.
We will speak our longing aloud.
We will look for God moving in the cracks of our days.
We will listen for angels in unexpected places.**

**Unto us, courage is born.
Unto us, hope draws near.
In the time of Herod,
and in our own time still,
we believe.**

Offering Invitation

Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: In the Time of Herod

Sending Forth

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available in the Narthex.

WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY, Wednesdays 6:30 pm EST – ONLINE ONLY: Join us each Wednesday for a time of deep reflection, thoughtful conversation, and sacred curiosity as we open scripture together and explore what it means for our lives today.

Whether you've been reading the Bible for years or are just beginning to ask questions, there's space for you here. Bring your wonder. Bring your doubts. Bring your whole self. Come for the community. Stay for the transformation. Zoom link sent out weekly and available upon request.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: We provide offering envelopes to anyone who finds them convenient for their onsite donations. **If you had envelopes in 2025** but **do not** want them for 2026, please let Joy Tardiff (jtardiff49@gmail.com) know by November 30th. If you had them in 2025 and want them in 2026, we will have them available for you on December 7th in the narthex (foyer of the upstairs part of the church.) Please note that your envelope number will likely change, as we ordered fewer boxes since fewer people are using them now. **If you did not have envelopes in 2025** and would like to have them for 2026, please let Joy Tardiff (jtardiff49@gmail.com) know by November 30th. Questions? Please contact Joy!

HOLIDAY SPECTACTULAR, Saturday, December 6th, 7:30 pm: Come enjoy the sounds of the season with us at this FREE event! Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Randolph Friendly Food Pantry.

POINSETTIAS can be ordered online by going to bit.ly/2025Poinsettia or by completing the attached form. All orders must be received by December 16th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Staff Meeting

Monday, December 1st

1:00 pm in the Chapel

SCAN OUR QR CODES:



Online Giving



Events Page of Our Website

Rev. Timothy Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

1 South Main Street, Randolph, MA
www.wearechanginglives.org

781-963-6373
info@wearechanginglives.org

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are available through the church at a cost of \$10 per plant. Please complete this form and return to the church office by December 16th. Forms will also be available in the Narthex. Checks should be made payable to "First Congregational Church".

In Living Tribute To: _____

In Loving Memory Of: _____

_____ In Memory of Loved Ones

_____ I would like to pick up my plant.

_____ I will leave my plant to be sent to those who
are "aging in place"

Given By _____