

West Newbury Congregational Church

December 4, 2011

Rev. Cynthia Batten, Minister

Parsonage: 429-2869

Judy Vaughan, Organist

Order of Worship

Prelude *“A Virgin Pure”* Nicholas Lebègue

Greetings and Announcements

Introit *“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”* Joseph Parry

Call to Worship

A voice in the wilderness cries, “Prepare the way of the Lord...”

How shall we prepare? How shall we ready ourselves for the coming of the Lord of heaven?

Look honestly into your hearts and into your lives. Listen as John the Baptizer proclaims, it is by repentance and the forgiveness of sin that the way is opened for the birth of Christ.

We hear his word; we seek this baptism of preparation.

Let us repent of our sin, and worship the God of our Lord who comes.

***Hymn (red) # 115 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

Advent Candlelighting the Eddy Family

Unison Prayer

God of the wilderness, God of the wastelands of our lives, lead us apart to those places where we hear your word most clearly. In the startling awareness of Christ’s coming, may we order our lives with repentance and with compassion. Sift from our lives all useless chaff, that like good wheat into a barn, we may be gathered into the realm of your righteousness, through the grace of Jesus Christ. We pray together as Jesus taught:

The Lord’s Prayer (trespasses)

***Gloria Patri #513 (red)**

Old Testament Reading (red) pg. 542, #117
Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-1

Youth

Anthem *“To A Maid Engaged to Joseph”*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us now humble ourselves before God and each other.

Holy God, in this Advent time of waiting for Christmas, You draw us into the wilderness where we are faced with the truth about ourselves. You lead us to reflect upon the darkness in our lives and in the world, to confess our sin, and with humble and contrite spirits to receive your gracious forgiveness. Only then are our hearts made ready for the indwelling of the purity of the Spirit of Christ and the passion of the love of Christ. Enable us to make a true repentance, and let our worship be an act of praise and gratitude for the good news of your mercy.

Silent Prayer

Prayer Response

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord, Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory *“What Can I Give Him?”*
Text: Christina Rossetti
Music: Don Cason

***Doxology # 515 (red)**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn (red) # 111 or (blue) # 240**
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Gospel Reading Mark 1: 1-8

Sermon

Communion Hymn (red)
“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

Communion Service

Hymn (red) # 103 *“Come Though Long Expected Jesus”*

***Benediction**

Postlude *“Good News from Heaven the Angels Bring”*
J.S. Bach

*Those who are able may stand

Diaconate “on call” for December

Ginnie Fuller – 802-866-5501

William Marsh – 802-429-2103

The Sunday School children are still collecting

RETURNABLE BOTTLES AND CANS

Please place them in the blue bucket

Benefits the Heifer Project

*Please power off your cell phones during worship
as they interfere with the sound system*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec.

- 4th 3:00 p.m. North Country Chorus Concert at
Peacham, VT Church
Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach - \$10.
- 5th 10:30 a.m. Bible Study at Parsonage
- 8th 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 12th 10:30 a.m. Bible Study at Parsonage
- 18th 10:45 a.m. Sunday School Pageant
December Birthday and Anniversaries
Following Service
2:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling - meet at church
- 19th 10:30 a.m. Bible Study at Parsonage
7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship Christmas Party
at Phyllis Ellis' home
- 24th 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of
Lessons and Carols
- 25th 10:45 a.m. Christmas Worship

**There's a box for Toys for Tots where you can place your
Christmas gifts for children.**