



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
Order of Worship
**All who are able please stand*

January 8, 2012

10:30 a.m.

Meditation

"Wise men still seek him."

~Ancient Proverb~

PRELUDE

Linda Tooley

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Pastor Frank

****If you have an announcement to share, please come to the front of the church.*

***INVOCATION** *(responsively)*

Pastor Frank

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #107 (red) "Let All Mortal Flesh
Keep Silence"**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Where is the One whose rule we accept?

Who is the One whom we have come to worship?

People: God whose dominion is over all creation, is with us.

We worship God, who acts in human history.

Leader: What are the signs of God's presence?

When shall we know we have found the truth we seek?

People: God is revealed in the commonplace, even in a child.

When we share our gifts, God is made known.

Leader: Why do weary travelers gather to worship?

How will our prayers and praise make a difference?

People: The grace of God has come to us once more.

We will let God change us in our daily routines.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Frank

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: Let us confess our sin and receive grace from the ocean of mercy
which flows from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

All: We confess that we are often wandering through life as if asleep.
We are lost in our thoughts and the drama created in our mind. We
worship an idol set up in our head, and call it you. We are sure we are

right. As a dreamer wakes from a nightmare and is no longer affected
by the dream, we pray. "Awaken us" from our own delusions, that we
might hear your voice and seek your face in the light of truth. Holy God,
Holy Mighty One, Holy, Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the
whole world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN IN ALL OF US
and the LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

Pastor Frank

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Sue Rader and Pastor Frank

*Colton Bosselait, Timothy Daley, Bradley Girouard, Adam Hofhaug,
Justin King, Anthony Perry, Dominic Perry, Brittany Pratt, Jackie Pratt,
Jake Pratt, Thomas Salem, Michael Smith, Daniel Williams*

(Bibles are given in loving memory of our parents, by Dave and Noel Gale.)

****Children are dismissed afterward for Sunday School Classes.****

ANTHEM

"This is Love" by R. Kevin Boesiger

Choir

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-7

GOSPEL ALLELUIA #736 *(remain seated to sing)*

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

***GLORIA PATRI #734 (blue)**

SERMON

"Epiphany for Outsiders."

Pastor Frank

***HYMN #143 (red) "We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Offertory

Linda Tooley

****The 1st Sunday of the month loose change goes to the Diaconate Fund for outreach.**

***DOXOLOGY #34 (blue)**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

****Note:** Red is wine and white is grape juice.

INVITATION: *(responsively)*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE PRAYER

RESPONSE OF PRAISE: *(sung together)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full, of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***CLOSING HYMN #228 (red) "Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling"**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linda Tooley

The First Congregational Church
978-632-2142

Email: office@fccgardner.org

Pastor: Frank McKenzie

Christian Education Director: Sue Rader

Organist: Linda Tooley

Administrative Assistant: Denise Smith

Custodian: Dale Rader

Deacon: Kristie Casey

Trustee: Peter Scott

Ushers: Carey & Todd Bosselait

Fellowship: Lauren Bastien

Nursery: Denise Smith

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

28 Green Street

Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

January 8, 2012

Communion Service

