

First Congregational Church

Our Church in Worship

December 2, 2018 10:00 AM

First Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming* – Johannes Brahms Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *When God Is a Child* – Wren/Fogg Chancel Choir

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING
The Finefrock Family

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Rejoice in the Lord always.

PEOPLE: **I will say it again: Rejoice!**

LEADER: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is near.**

INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE

ADVENT PRAYER (Unison)

O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 119 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

(Children may now leave for Church School)

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS Barbara Papagian

LEADER: God, in your mercy

PEOPLE: **Hear our prayer**

SILENT MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming* Chancel Choir

- harmonized M. Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Saviour, when half spent was the night.

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY – To the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16 Pip Adams

SERMON: Anticipation Rev. Kevin Pleas

THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the sacrament, members and visitors.

We serve non-alcoholic grape juice, bread and a gluten-free alternative, usually rice cakes.

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 136 *Christians All, Your Lord is Coming*

INVITATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ. You continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify his nativity with acts of compassion and service. As we approach our communion table, may your blessing rest on these elements of bread and wine, that we might take them into ourselves and so partake of the living reality of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the true gift of this season, and the light for which our world hungers. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 125 *Come, O Long-expected Jesus*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegro assai vivace – Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bibles: Old Testament page 696

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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You are welcome here! ▪ We are an Open & Affirming Congregation