

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

December 9, 2018 10:00 AM

Second Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE *Chorale* – Dieterich Buxtehude Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Barbara Papagian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Light One Candle* – Natalie Sleeth

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

The Confirmands

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: A voice cries out of the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord”

PEOPLE: **Every valley will be filled and every mountain will be leveled**

LEADER: The crooked will be made straight

PEOPLE: **The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed**

LEADER: All will see the salvation of God

PEOPLE: **See the light from on high, the dawn is breaking**

ALL: **The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!**

INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

ADVENT PRAYER (UNISON)

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 153 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

ANTHEM *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* – arr. Mark A. Miller

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sings

release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart. Refrain: Born to save, born to heal, come, O Savior, come. While we wait, while we pray, come, Savior, come. Hope of all heaven and earth, come, Jesus, come.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone, by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne. (Refrain)

TIME WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

Kelda York

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN’S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING

MESSAGE

CLOSING PRAYER

ANTHEM *Walk in the Light* – arr. André Thomas

Refrain: We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world; “Glory to the newborn King,” Jesus, the light of the world (Refrain) Hail the heav’n born prince of Peace! Jesus, the Light of the world; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus the light of the world. (Refrain)

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Carol Soucy

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.

*HYMN NO. 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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)

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need for your gifts and in need of presence in their lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:67-72

Ethan Lyons

SERMON:

Sing it, Zechariah

Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 164

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in D – D. Buxtehude

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:67-72 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant...”

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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