

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

December 22, 2019 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE *Chorale – D. Buxtehude* Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *O Come, All ye Faithful – arr. Patricia A. Sanders* Sabbath Bells

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

Kathy & Richard Nelson Family

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,

PEOPLE: **And grant us your salvation.**

LEADER: Listen to what the Lord our God says:

PEOPLE: **He promises peace to his people, who are his beloved saints.**

LEADER: The Lord will indeed give what is good.

PEOPLE: **Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

LEADER: May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us in this time of Advent worship.

PEOPLE: **May we see God's face, and so know peace.**

INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

ADVENT PRAYER (UNISON)

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person; babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 165 *Once in Royal David's City*

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING: James 1:5-6 (Common English Bible)

But anyone who needs wisdom should ask God, whose very nature is to give to everyone without a second thought, without keeping score. Wisdom will certainly be given to those who ask. Whoever asks shouldn't hesitate. They should ask in faith, without doubting. Whoever doubts is like the surf of the sea, tossed and turned by the wind.

MESSAGE: O Come Thou Wisdom from On High

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Joy to the World (with "Hallelujah Chorus")* Chancel Choir

- G. F. Handel/arr. K. Hampton

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love. King of Kings forever and ever, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah, Hallelujah. And He shall reign forever and ever.

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

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

*HYMN NO. 163

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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)**

O God—before whom at creation the morning stars sang together, and at the birth of whose Son angels praised you, singing “Glory to God in the highest”—may our offerings be a true sacrifice of praise, helping speed the time of peace on earth and goodwill among all your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Peter Perich

SERMON

God in a Baby

Rev. Kevin Pleas

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 164**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gigue fugue in C major – D. Buxtehude

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-25 (New Revised Standard Version)

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Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

First Congregational Church

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