

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

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"FOR ALL WHO EXALT THEMSELVES WILL BE HUMBLLED, BUT ALL WHO HUMBLE THEMSELVES  
WILL BE EXALTED." LUKE 18:14

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(*) INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK AS IT IS PASSED DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS; THEN PASS IT TOWARD THE CENTER AISLE.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE LONG FOR GOD'S PRESENCE.

ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR HOPE.

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE SEARCH FOR GOD'S TRUTH.

ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND SOURCE OF OUR HOPE.

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE.

ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR HOPE.

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISE.

ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR HOPE.

***OPENING HYMN: THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS (INSERT)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER

LEADER: REJOICE, PEOPLE, REJOICE.

ALL: THE LORD WILL GATHER US IN HOPE.

LEADER: THE LORD WILL GUARD US IN FAITHFULNESS.

ALL: THE LORD WILL RENEW US IN LOVE.

***OPENING PRAYER**

ALL: PRAISES SURGE WITHIN US, CHRIST, BECAUSE YOU COME TO US AMIDST OUR FEAR, CONFUSION, AND DISTRESS. NEWS OF YOUR NEARNESS BRINGS COMFORT AND STRENGTH. YOU ARE OUR HOPE. FILL THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HEAVEN'S PEACE. AMEN.

***THE GLORIA PATRI (SUNG)**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

WORDS: ANONYMOUS, 4TH CENTURY. MUSIC: HENRY GREATORIX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 18:9-14

SERMON: "HOW CAN GOODNESS BE TROUBLE?" REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

HYMN: #102 O HOW SHALL I RECEIVE YOU (VERSES 1-3)

PAUL GERHARDT, 1653 TRANSL. CATHERINE WINKWORTH, 1863 AND OTHERS; ALT.

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LEADER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR
JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN: #106 MY HEART SINGS OUT WITH JOYFUL PRAISE (VERSES 1-3)**

RUTH DUCK, 1985

***CLOSING PRAYER**

***BENEDICTION**

***UNISON RESPONSE:**

AND GOD WILL RAISE YOU UP ON EAGLE'S WINGS, BEAR YOU ON THE BREATH OF DAWN, MAKE YOU TO SHINE LIKE THE SUN, AND HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

**OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY**

LAY READER: BILL DEMPSEY
USHERS: MAX & VICKY LINDSAY
FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: JOE & PAT GARANT
GREETERS: BLAIR AND ANN DIAMOND

ALTAR GUILD: VICKY LINDSAY
COMMUNION: VICKY LINDSAY

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY	DECEMBER 1	10:00 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
MONDAY	DECEMBER 2	5:30 PM	WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ THANK YOU TO ALL WHO LENT A HAND IN DECORATING THE CHURCH.
- ❖ THIS IS THE **LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR POINSETTIAS**. YOU MAY PLACE YOUR ORDER IN THE COLLECTION PLATE.
- ❖ **SAVE THE DATES: THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: DECEMBER 8; CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 20.**
- ❖ FELLOWSHIP HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR DECEMBER 22 AND 29.
- ❖ PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, DECEMBER 20, 5:30 TO 7:30 PM.
- ❖ WE ARE IN NEED OF LAY READERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY.
- ❖ PLEASE SEE NANCY WEDGE FOR GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS: DISH CLOTHS FOR \$2.50 AND/OR CORN BROOMS FOR \$20 EACH. ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE CHURCH.
- ❖ THE LADIES LUNCH BUNCH PLANS TO MEET FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT THE 19TH HOLE AT 11:30 AM. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! CONTACT BOBBI ZUBI FOR MORE INFORMATION 989-657-9996.
- ❖ **DECEMBER 15 CPR AND AED TRAINING AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED, SHOWN ON THE INTERNET, AS THEY ARE HAPPENING AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING ONLINE LATER. PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY ATTENDING THE SUNDAY SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY. A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE LADIES RESTROOM IS NEAR THE LOCKWOOD STREET ENTRANCE. A MEN'S ROOM IS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 1, 2024

*As an Open and Affirming congregation,
we welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister
The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
Office Administrator: *Nancy Ross*
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*
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