

WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

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

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*ADVENT IS A TIME OF PREPARATION, A PERIOD FOR EACH OF US TO EXAMINE OURSELVES  
IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD AND WILL — AND TO TURN TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS AND  
REDEMPTION.*  
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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.)

JIM McNEIL, LAY READER

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ANTHEM: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE

“HOPE IS LIKE A CANDLE BURNING IN THE NIGHT. HOPE PAINTS EVERY SHADOW WITH ITS
GENTLE LIGHT. GLOWING LIKE A PROMISE TILL OUR FAITH IS SIGHT, HOPE IS LIKE A CANDLE
IN THE NIGHT. PEACE IS LIKE SWEET MUSIC SOUNDING PURE AND STRONG – SINGING
SONGS OF COMFORT WHEN THE NIGHT IS LONG. TURNING DRUMS OF HATRED INTO
HEAVEN'S SONG, PEACE LIKE SWEET MUSIC PURE AND STRONG. JOY IS LIKE A FLOWER
BLOOMING IN THE SOUL, SENDING FORTH ITS FRAGRANCE TO HEAL AND MAKE US WHOLE.
AND WHEN BITTER WINDS ARE BLOWING, WHEN BIRDS REFUSE TO SING, JOY CAN TURN OUR
WINTER INTO SPRING. LOVE IS LIKE A DIAMOND WRAPPED IN PUREST GOLD. NOTHING IS
MORE PRECIOUS, NOTHING BOUGHT OR SOLD. PEARL OF HEAVEN'S GLORY, WONDROUS TO
BEHOLD, LOVE IS LIKE A DIAMOND WRAPPED IN GOLD. JOY IS LIKE A FLOWER. PEACE IS
LIKE SWEET MUSIC. HOPE IS LIKE A CANDLE IN THE NIGHT.”

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*OPENING HYMN: #102 O HOW SHALL I RECEIVE YOU (VERSES 1 & 3)

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

LEADER: OUR KING AND SAVIOR DRAWS NIGH.

ALL: O COME, LET US ADORE HIM.

LEADER: THE LORD WILL SURELY COME AND NOT DELAY.

ALL: HE WILL MANIFEST HIMSELF TO ALL NATIONS.

*OPENING PRAYER

ALL: IN THIS ADVENT SEASON, DEAR GOD, WE ARE NOT FILLED WITH EXUBERANT PRAISE,
FOR WE ARE WAITING FOR THE GREAT EVENT OF CHRISTMAS. YET, WE HAVE THE JOY OF
ANTICIPATION. WE ARE ON TIPTOE WITH EXPECTATION. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE PROMISE
OF THE MESSIAH'S COMING ANEW TO US. HE IS THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO US.
WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE CHRIST-CHILD WHO IS TO COME. 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 GREATOREX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 1:1-5, 10-14

SERMON: “ETERNAL WORD, AND WORDS”

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

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

*HYMN: #116 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (VERSES 6 & 7)

PSALTERIOLUM CANTIONUM CATHOLICARUM, 1710 BASES ON ANCIENT ANTIPHONS FROM ADVENT VESPERS TRANSL. JOHN
MASON NEALE, 1851, AND OTHERS; ALT. ST. 2, 7, TRANSL. HENRY SLOANE COFFIN, 1916; 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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 24, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



***CLOSING HYMN: #103 WATCHER, TELL US OF THE NIGHT (VERSES 1-3)**

JOHN BOWRING, 1825; ALT.

***BENEDICTION: GO IN PEACE. LET THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON YOU, AND LINGER IN YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGHOUT THE COMING WEEK, AND FOREVERMORE. AMEN.**

***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: JIM McNEIL

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: DAN KIBBE AND DEB BUTLER

ALTAR GUILD: VICKY LINDSAY

GREETERS: JEFF AND ANN GEROW

USHERS: ASHLEY AND NANCY WEDGE

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY	DECEMBER 24	10:00 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
		6:00 PM	FELLOWSHIP, REFRESHMENTS & MUSIC
		6:40 PM	CHRISTMAS CHORALE SERVICE
		7:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ SEE INSERT.

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.

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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.  
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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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