# WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

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

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.

INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

#### PRELUDE

# WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOTTIE HAASE, LAY READER

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

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 HEAVENS 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."

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# \*OPENING HYMN: #164 ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME

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# **CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

LEADER: WE COME TO PRAISE OUR LORD AND GOD.

ALL: GOD WILL LIFT UP THOSE WHO ARE DESPISED BY THE WORLD.

LEADER: THE HUNGRY WILL BE FILLED. ALL: STRANGERS WILL BE WELCOMED.

LEADER: WICKEDNESS WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN. ALL: WE REJOICE THAT MERCY WILL TRIUMPH.

LEADER: WE AWAIT THE ADVENT OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE. IN JOY WE COME. IN JOY WE WAIT.

## \*OPENING PRAYER

ALL: GOD OF ALL THE EARTH, YOU VISITED THE WORLD WITH YOUR WORD AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, SETTING IN MOTION THE UNIVERSE. AND NOW YOU VISIT THE WORLD AGAIN, YOUR WORD MADE FLESH. IT IS MORE THAN WE COULD ASK, MORE THAN WE DESERVE, AND MORE THAN WE CAN UNDERSTAND. WE OFFER OUR PROFOUND THANKS AND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE. 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: ISAIAH 7:10-16

SERMON: "ISAIAH ONCE MORE"

**REV. DICK HOTCHKIN** 

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

\*HYMN: #122 COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS CHARLES WESLEY, 1744; 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.

# \*CLOSING HYMN: #117 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES

GEORG WEISSEL, 1641 TRANSL. CATHERINE WINKWORTH, 1865, 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: DOTTIE HAASE

ALTAR GUILD: VICKY LINDSAY

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: BILL & DOTTIE HAASE

GREETERS: JOE & PAT GARANT

**USHERS:** SANDY JARMUZEWSKI AND PENNY ANDERSON

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 5:15 PM CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROLING

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

❖ SEE INSERT.

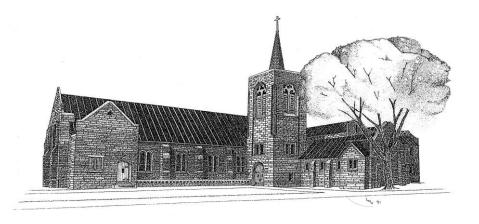
SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED, SHOWN ON THE INTERNET, AS THEY ARE HAPPENING AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING ONLINE LATER. PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY ATTENDING THE SUNDAY SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

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 17, 2023** 

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

Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday

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