

November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

First Congregational United Church of Christ
945 G Street NW, Washington, DC

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please prepare your heart and space for worship.)

PRELUDE "Advent (Winter)" Hilary Tann

WELCOME Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

*OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (page 5)

v. 1-4, 6-7

Verse 1: choir; Verses 2, 3, 7: congregation; Verse 4: higher voices; Verse 6: lower voices

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY: HOPE Lois & Kurt Fischbeck

The Gospel of John speaks of Jesus on Christ as the true light coming into the world. In anticipation of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks of Advent leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. So we light the first candle, the candle of Hope, and dare to express our longing for healing and the wellbeing of all creation.

(Candle of Hope is lit)

May this light remind us that the waiting itself is holy. Will you pray with me?

All: **Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the shadow places in our lives to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, so that we may walk in the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.

All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD Rev. Sam McFerran

Please unmute yourself and greet those around you with words such as "The peace of God be with you." Let us bless one another with deep peace across time and space.

SCRIPTURE READING Rev. Barbara Gerlach

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God will teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

SCRIPTURE READING

Lauren McFerran

Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Maker. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Human One. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Human One. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let the house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Human One is coming at an unexpected hour."

SERMON

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

CHORAL ANTHEM

"And the Glory of the Lord"

Handel

OFFERING

Rev. Sam McFerran

As we worship virtually and in person, we invite you to give in a variety of ways. Place your offering in the plate, send your check to the office, [give online](#) through our website at www.firstuccdc.org (which includes options to give through PayPal or Vanco). Consider signing up for auto-giving.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God who gives all blessings birth;
Praise God all creatures on the earth;
Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free:
One holy God in persons three.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
 our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
 Love stir with-in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
 <i>(Refrain)</i></p> | <p>7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
 all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
 fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
 <i>(Refrain)</i></p> |
|--|---|

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

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Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
 Marty Haugen, 1983

ADVENT

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G G/B C G/B C G

lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in-to glo - ry. . . .

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve—Last Sunday to Order



As we plan for our Christmas Eve services, we are ordering poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. We invite you to order a plant in honor or in memory of a loved one whose name will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship folder. Please fill out either the digital form ([click here](#)) or the paper form enclosed in worship folders. You may pay online via Vanco or PayPal (indicate poinsettias) or give us a check (with Poinsettias on the memo line). The cost per plant is \$20. All orders must be received today.

Special Worship Services in December

Sunday, December 4:	Christmas Pageant Worship Service at 10:30 AM
Sunday, December 11:	Advent 3 Communion Service at 10:30 AM
Thursday, December 15:	Blue Christmas: A Service of Lament & Healing at 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 18:	A Christmas Cantata at 10:30 AM
Saturday, December 24:	Candlelight Lessons & Carols at 5:30 PM
Sunday, December 25:	Christmas Gathering at 10:30 AM

Hope and Fears — Advent Nurture

Coordinated by Barbara Gerlach

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Phillips Brooks



Hope and fear mix and mingle in the Christmas stories of Jesus' birth. "Fear not", the angel says to Mary. "Be not afraid, I bring you good news of great joy," the angels say to the shepherds. We will be sharing the hopes and fears we carry into this Advent season. Each Sunday, four people in the congregation will share the reasons for their fear, the sources of their hope and how they move through fear to hope again. We will share experiences when hope has risen out our fear, broken through our despair, depression or doubt, rekindled our courage and conviction, given us a new sense of life's possibility, a deeper experience of connection and community, and increased our joy and peace.

Sharing on November 27th: Dwan Reese, Laura Johnson, Kemmesha Thomas, Robin Olson
Sharing on December 11th: Sandy Sorensen, Thaddeus Elliott, David Lindsey, Leela Koilpillai



Sign Up as Scripture Reader or Liturgist This Advent to Epiphany

Sign up at tinyurl.com/FirstAdvent to serve as a scripture reader or liturgist in worship this holy season of Advent and Christmas through Epiphany. We welcome members and friends; local and far-flung; adults, youth and children to participate. Your voice helps make us who we are, so please take a moment to sign up. Our worship is enriched by your active participation.

Christmas Pageant: December 4

First Church rejoices to celebrate Christ's birth with our wonderful pageant on Sunday, December 4th (please note we will celebrate communion on December 11th). The theme will be "Emmanuel: The Star is With Us." Please invite extended family and friends to join us in person or by Zoom for this special Sunday, led by Rev. Sam McFerran. Children participating in the pageant will rehearse on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:30 - 11:00 AM, then again on 9:30 AM on pageant Sunday, December 4th.



Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for David Greer, following the death of his beloved father.
Prayers for Rose Berman as she continues to heal from surgery and hospitalization.

Prayers of strength for Monica, daughter-in-law to Diane Brenneman and wife of Sara, after a recurrence of cancer.

Prayers of healing and peace for Bonnie Rickert, Courtney McCaffrey's mother.

Prayers of healing for James Ross.

Prayers of support for Andre, the mother of Scott Prentice, as she battles leukemia.

Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.

Prayers for Monte Hillis and her husband Bert, as she faces the rapid onset of dementia.

Prayers of peace and liberation for Ukraine, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.

Byron Adams' niece, Valerie, undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

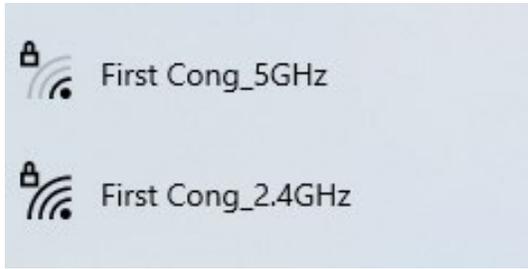
All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.

Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.

People's UCC, our sibling congregation.

Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses.

Rev. Laura Johnson and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.



First Church Wi-Fi password:

first1865

To avoid echo/feedback,
please mute your device when
taking part in group discussions.

We are an Open & Affirming congregation, welcoming all LGBTQ+ individuals and families into the full life and leadership of our church.



Welcome to First Congregational UCC. We were founded in 1865 by abolitionists as the first racially integrated church in Washington, D.C. In 1867 our mission committee played a prominent role in the founding of Howard University. The church has been located at its present site at 10th and G Streets NW since 1868. In more recent years, the church affirmed its vision as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church (1987), a Just Peace Church (1985), Multiracial/Multicultural Church (2003), and an Anti-Racist Church (2021). Our new building, constructed according to Gold LEED standards, was dedicated in 2012. First Church continues to follow its faith journey into the future and to be a prophetic voice for the Spirit in the nation's capital. If you would like to know more about First Church or would like to make it your spiritual home and community, please contact churchoffice@FirstUCCDC.org or 202.628.4317.



Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran
Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams
Director of Music Ministry – Ms. Leela Koilpillai
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell

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