



**1st Sunday of Advent:
God's Promised Day Can't Wait**

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation
November 27, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

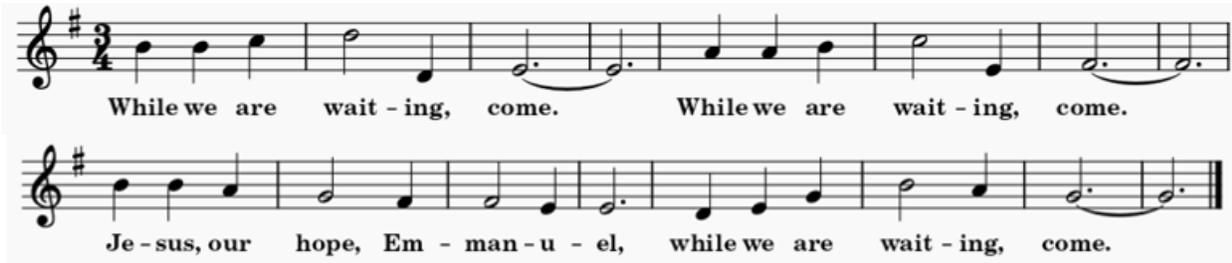
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music

While We are Waiting, Come

Don Cason



While we are wait - ing, come. While we are wait - ing, come.
Je - sus, our hope, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.

Call to Worship

One: Hope is gravity for the broken—

All: Pulling us up.

One: Hope is manna in the wilderness

All: When we want to give up.

One: Hope is seeing stars in the city

All: When we forget the sky is there.

One: Hope is the anthem of faith

All: And the reason we're here.

One: So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

All: For the God of new life is drawing near.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Veni Veni Emmanuel)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with thy captive people dwell
that mourn in lonely exile here,
Until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us, in peace to dwell.
2. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's deep shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us, in peace to dwell.
3. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us, in peace to dwell.
4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us, in peace to dwell.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hope Can't Wait

Muriel & Randy Hachfeld

(Our candle lighters will name things for which they will wait, before naming that which cannot wait.
Please join in the liturgy below when it is time.)

One: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for hope.

All: I cannot wait for hope, because I want to live with hope—today and every day.

One: I want to roll my sleeves up and get to work—living, serving, giving, and transforming with the hope of a better day.

All: So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and as a prayer that we might stop waiting and start living, stop watching and start moving.

[Candle is lit.]

One: May the light of this candle burn inside us this week—inspiring hope and action for God's promised day. Amen.

Advent Carol

The Four Candles

Noel

**One candle for hope to tell of his birth.
One candle for peace he brought to the earth.
One candle for joy, one candle for love,
For Jesus who came from heaven above.**

Time with Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Anthem

Advent

Charles Griffen (2009)

This Advent moon shines cold and clear,
These Advent nights are long;
Our lamps have burned year after year
And still their flame is strong.
'Watchman, what of the night?' we cry,
Heart-sick with hope deferred:
'No speaking signs are in the sky,'
Is still the watchman's word.

We weep because the night is long,
We laugh for day shall rise,
We sing a slow contented song
And knock at Paradise.
Weeping we hold him fast, who wept
For us, we hold him fast;
And will not let him go except
He bless us first or last.

Weeping we hold him fast to-night;
We will not let him go
Till daybreak smite our wearied sight
And summer smite the snow:
Then figs shall bud, and dove with dove
Shall coo the livelong day;

Then he shall say, 'Arise, my love,
My fair one, come away.'

—Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

An Ancient Word

Isaiah 2:1-5

Sue Evans, Matt Forster,
Marie Gery, Shawn Nuebel

A Contemporary Word

God's Promised Day Can't Wait

by Sarah Are

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

I Wonder as I Wander

American folk tune

I wonder as I wander through winter and cold
How stories of Jesus in our times unfold,
How Advent has room for the new and the old;
I wonder as I wander through winter and cold.

If Mary and Joseph were coming today
With frost in the air and the child on the way
And no one to help them from going astray,
Would we make them welcome
and do more than pray?

I wonder as I wander through winter and cold
How stories of Jesus in our times unfold,
How Advent has room for the new and the old;
I wonder as I wander through winter and cold.

The Prayers

We will join in prayer aloud and in silence. All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Prayer Response

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell



Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, 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.

Sharing Our Gifts

The hearts in the plate are for the children's offering, to raise money for our neighbors at Viking Terrace.

Offertory

If Jesus Is Come
Kathy Szydlo, clarinet

Sally Ann Morris (2013)

If Jesus is come, let warfare be ended.
If Jesus is come, let violence cease.
If Jesus is come, let earth begin healing,
For he is Messiah, the Prince of Peace.

If Jesus is come, let no one go hungry.
If Jesus is come, let no one be ill.
If Jesus is come and still dwells among us,
Then we have been summoned to seek God's will.

If Jesus is come, the poor are called blessed.
If Jesus is come, the rich have been cursed.
If Jesus is come, the meek will inherit,
The weak will be strong, and the last be first.

If Jesus is come, what tongue can describe it?
If Jesus is come, then all things are new.
If Jesus is come, the Spirit will guide us;
For if we believe, then there's work to do.

—Adam Tice

Prayer of Thanks

God of gracious waiting, accept these gifts from the abundance of our hearts, given in gratitude and thanksgiving. Fill our hearts with a hope that won't let go as we journey through Advent and beyond. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Down By the Riverside

African American spiritual

(Choir sings verse 1:) I'm gonna lay down my heavy load down by the riverside,
And I ain't gonna study war no more.

(All sing:) I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield....

I'm gonna put on my golden shoes....

I'm gonna put on my starry crown....

Benediction

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Robert Hobby (1962-)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Scott Richardson, Muriel Hachfeld, Joan Higinbotham, Dean Paxton, and Anne Larson

Digital Greeter: Gary Wagenbach

Readers: Sue Evans, Matt Forster, Marie Gery, Shawn Nuebel

This Week at First UCC:

Sunday, November 27

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour (Assembly Room)

1:00 p.m. Confirmation

6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, November 29

7:00 p.m. Spirit Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30

5:30 p.m. WFFF

6:30 p.m. CONNECT Group Meeting (Library)

7:00 p.m. Open & Affirming Meeting

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

Sunday, December 4

9:15-9:30 a.m. Children + youth musical rehearsal

9:30-9:45 a.m. Faith Formation

9:45-10:15 a.m. Children + family ornament making and cookie decorating.

10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting and Presentation by Gina Washburn

6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship (Sanctuary)

Church Office Hours

The Church office will now be open from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you need something outside of that time, please contact Kevin at church@firstucc.org.

Congregational Meeting Called for December 4

A congregational meeting has been called for December 4 after worship to consider a resolution voted on at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference. Council is calling for members to formally endorse (and submit to the national General Synod) a resolution about climate change and energy passed by the MN UCC Conference earlier this year. **(See the First UCC website or the south entrance bulletin board for the Special Meeting's resolution; it includes in the appendix the resolution we would endorse.)**

Mayflower United Church of Christ has requested our endorsement as 1 of the 5 General Synod requirements for consideration of resolutions. Such endorsements must be made at a formal, congregational meeting. This needs to be done in time for Mayflower to have all of the required material to the General Synod by Jan. 2, 2023. There is an additional document to view if you have questions about the resolution or meeting, or please feel empowered to contact either Matt Rohn or Mary Savina.

After this short meeting, Gina Washburn will speak about her trip to the U.S. Mexican border.

Fair Trade Olive Oil from Palestine available on November 27 and December 11

Fred Rogers will be selling Palestinian Fair Trade extra virgin olive oil after services on both Sunday, November 27, and December 11. \$25 for 750ml and \$20 for 500ml—he will also have Zatar Spice and Olive Oil Soap available. Cash, check, and Zelle payment only; donations to Zatouin are also welcome.

We Need WFFF, and We Need You!

Wednesdays for Food, Fun and Faith, (WFFF) is a gathering time for dinner and community on Wednesday nights, 5:30-6:15 p.m., in between other church programming (adult ed, Connect, OWL, choir rehearsals). There has been an overwhelming desire to get WFFF started again, in a simpler version that still provides food, fun, and faith for our community. In order to start WFFF again, we need you! Prepared meals will be purchased, and simply need to be heated up. We need a steady team of volunteers, though, willing to set up and clean up the Wednesday meals. Is this opportunity calling your name? We need you! Contact Pastor Lauren for more details by emailing associateminister@firstucc.org.

Giving of Time & Talents: Volunteer Form Now Available

Each year we invite members and friends of our congregation to complete a Volunteer Interest Form to tell us where and how you would like to be involved in the ongoing ministries of our congregation. This year's form is available [here](#). Can you please take two minutes right now to complete it for us?

Can you read a budget? Do you know your way around Excel? Do we have an opportunity for you!

The Church Treasurer is an important role, and often a demanding one. But this year we are making it easier than ever! With the addition of Pippa Younger as our Finance Manager, and supportive co-leadership from experienced finance guy Fred Rogers, the tasks will be split to lighten the load of this important job. Accounting experience is not required, though you do need to have a head for numbers. If you're interested in learning more, talk to Pastor Cindy, Margit Johnson, or Laura Turek.

Coffee Hour Volunteers and Coordinator Needed

Volunteer hosts are needed for Coffee Hour! We have open dates in November and December. Volunteering is easy to do, and orientation will be provided for those who are new to Coffee Hour hosting. Interested? [Sign up to host here](#). First UCC is also looking for a volunteer to serve as the Coffee Hour coordinator. If you are interested, please contact church@firstucc.org.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking "Donate Online Now!" under the "Giving" tab, place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722468. All rights reserved.

Christ, Be Our Light © 1993 Bernadette Farrell

While We are Waiting, Come © 1986 Word Music, LLC

If Jesus Is Come © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc.

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying © 1996 MorningStar Music Publishers

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Deb Gottfried

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kevin Krein

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Give to the Flower Power Fund!



Thanks to your generous gifts, the Flower Power fund at First UCC is used to purchase plants and flowers to beautify the worship space throughout the year. You can give to the Flower Power fund in honor or in memory of a loved one, either for a specific occasion (such as Christmas), or to be used as needed. Cost per plant is \$20.

You may fill out this form, and return with a check to the church office, or place both in the offering plate. Please make out checks to First UCC, and put "Flower Power" in the memo line.

I am giving a gift to the Flower Power fund, designated as follows:

\$_____ to be used for purchases when needed

\$_____ to be used at Christmas

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given By (your name as it should be printed in the bulletin):

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____