

**3rd Sunday of Advent:  
Delight Can't Wait**

**First United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,  
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation  
December 11, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude**

*Noel (from Byzantine Sketches)*

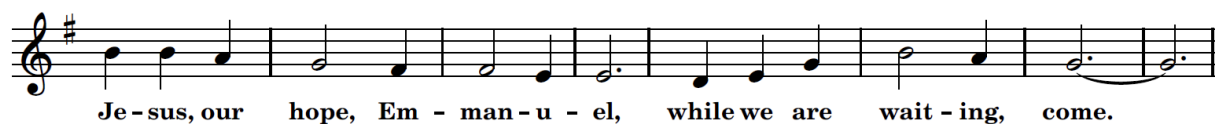
Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Gathering Music**

*While We are Waiting, Come*

Don Cason



**Call to Worship**

One: A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon;

**All: a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn.**

One: It is the light of the World, Emmanuel, God with us, the Promised One.

**All: Come to us, Emmanuel! We have seen your light and gather here awaiting the day of your coming.**

**Opening Hymn**

*My Heart Sings Out in Joyful Praise*

#106 (Marias Lovsång)

1. My heart sings out with joyful praise  
To God who raises me,  
Who came to me when I was low  
And changed my destiny.  
The Holy One, The Living God  
Is always full of grace  
To those who seek their Maker's will  
In every time and place.
2. The arm of God is strong and just  
To scatter all the proud.  
The tyrants tumble from their thrones  
And vanish like a cloud.  
The hungry are all satisfied;  
The rich are sent away.  
The poor of earth who suffer long  
Will welcome God's new day.
3. The promise made in ages past  
At last has come to be,  
For God has come in power to save,  
To set all people free.  
Remembering those who wait to see  
Salvation's dawning day,  
Our Savior comes to all who weep  
To wipe their tears away.

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Sue Evans and Annie Kramer

(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 no longer wait for joy.

**ALL: I cannot wait for joy, because I want to live with joy—today and every day.**

One: In a world where suffering and violence plague the news, I will choose to delight in that which is good.

**ALL: This week, we light the candle of joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word.**

[The candle is lit.]

One: May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight through this world. 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.**

## A Contemporary Word

*Joy Can't Wait*

by Sarah Are

## 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

Christ, be our light. Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light. Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

**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.**

***Christmas Old and New: Music and Readings***

**Reading**

Luke 1:26–38

Greg Muth

**Music**

*Annunciation*

Sasha Johnson Manning (2007)

Tracey Engleman, soprano

A golden youth to Mary came  
And called her by her human name.  
Heaven on earth resides in you.  
You bear the Christmas child.

A golden youth to Mary came  
And traced the lifeline on her palm.  
Lady of truth and innocence,  
You bear the Christmas child.

You bear the Christmas child, and he  
Will call you Mother all his days.  
Mercy and love reside in you,  
You bear the Christmas child.

You bear the Christmas child, and he  
Will live and die within your arms.  
Sorrow and joy reside in you.  
You bear the Christmas child.

—Carol Ann Duffy

**Reading**

Luke 1:39-56

Judy Bond

**Music**

*Magnificat*

Gilles Binchois (1400-1460)

**Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

Fred Rogers

**Music**

*Night of Silence*

Daniel Kantor (1984)

(The congregation sings the first verse of 'Silent Night' when directed.)

Cold are the people, winter of life,  
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night.  
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,  
Flowers that will echo the sunrise;  
Fire of hope is our only warmth;  
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,  
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,  
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,  
Rumors of a dawn so embracing;  
Breathless love awaits darkened souls;  
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,  
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.  
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,  
Rising in the warmth of your son's love;  
Star, unknowing of night and day,  
Spirit, we wait for your loving son.

**Reading**

John 1:1-4

Ruthie Lippert

**Music**

*Dignus est agnus*

Malcolm Williamson (1963)

Tracey Engleman, soprano

Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor.  
To him belong glory and power forever.

**Reading**

Revelation 5:11-13

Fred Blaisdell

*The offering will be taken during the following anthem.*

**Music**

*Worthy is the Lamb*  
(from *The Messiah*)

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Worthy is the lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by his blood  
to receive power and riches and honor and glory and blessing.  
Blessing and honor, glory, and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the lamb.  
Amen.

**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 joy that won't let go as we journey through Advent and beyond.  
Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*O How Shall I Receive You*

#102 (St. Theodulph)

1. O how shall I receive you,  
How meet you on your way,  
Blessed hope of every people,  
My soul's delight and stay?  
O Jesus, Jesus, give me  
Now by your own pure light,  
To know what'er is pleasing  
And welcome in your sight.

3. You come, O Christ, with gladness  
In mercy and goodwill,  
To bring an end to sadness  
And bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation  
We live for that great day  
When a renewed creation  
Your glory shall display.

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*Chaconne*

Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

**We're so glad you worshiped here today!**

### **Thanks to this week's leaders:**

Ushers: Ann Sullivan, Dan Sullivan, Nancy Barbour, Jeffery Latterell, and Scott Richardson

Digital Greeter: Margit Johnson

Readers: Greg Muth, Judy Bond, Fred Rogers, Ruthie Lippert, and Fred Blaisdell

Guest Musicians: Tracey Engleman and Caroline Flaten, sopranos; Cullen Hauck and Henry Vermeer, tenors; Charles Gray and Chung Park, violins; Marty Hodel, trumpet; Shana Hodel, piano

### **This Week at First UCC:**

#### **Sunday, December 11**

9:30 a.m. Kids' Musical Rehearsal (Big Room)

10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

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

#### **Wednesday, December 14**

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays for Food, Fun, and Faith (Assembly Room)

6:00 p.m. Kids' Musical Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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

#### **Saturday, December 17**

10:00 a.m. Kids' Musical Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

#### **Sunday, December 18**

10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
6:00 p.m. The Evening Service (Sanctuary)

### **Wednesday December 21**

6:00 p.m. The Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

### **Saturday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)  
8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

### **Sunday, December 25**

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship (Sanctuary)

### **Church Office Hours and Financial Questions**

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](mailto:church@firstucc.org); if you have questions regarding anything financial (donations, pledges, etc.) please contact Pippa at [finance@firstucc.org](mailto:finance@firstucc.org) or call on Tuesdays between 9 and 1.

### **Fair Trade Olive Oil from Palestine available on December 11**

Fred Rogers will be selling Palestinian Fair Trade extra virgin olive oil after service on Sunday, December 11. \$25 for 750ml—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](mailto:associateminister@firstucc.org).

### **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](mailto:church@firstucc.org).

### **Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed in January**

First UCC is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels during the week of January 16 through 21. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up via the “Community Service” page on the church’s website, or email Annie Kramer ([anniekramer@charter.net](mailto:anniekramer@charter.net).) All volunteers will comply with COVID protocol, designed to keep volunteers and clients safe. No volunteers will enter homes, nor will they enter senior living centers past the front lobby.

# 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](http://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](http://firstucc.org), and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

Tree of Jesse -- middle panel, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=55821> [retrieved November 23, 2022]. Original source:

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Night of Silence © 1984, arrangement © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc.

Annunciation © 2007 Faber Music

Dignus est agnus © 1963 L.J. Cary & Co., Ltd.

## 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



### A note about today's music

The choir's anthems today represent over five hundred years of musical history, telling the story of Christ in medieval and modern ways.

The English composer Sasha Johnson Manning has written many dozens of solo songs and anthems for choirs, including *Your enjoyment of the world*, which our church commissioned in 2006. Today's anthem, *Annunciation*, comes from the larger work *The Manchester Carols*, with new texts by English poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy.

Gilles Binchois, a fifteenth-century composer who lived in what is now Belgium, sang in the choir of the Burgundian court and composed many sacred and secular anthems. His setting of the text of the Magnificat employs only a handful of musical phrases, but each is repeated in subtly different ways, with an energetic rhythm that brings Mary's prayer to life.

The popularity of Daniel Kantor's *Night of silence* is well deserved for the way in which his original melody and text, eminently singable on their own, harmonize perfectly with the familiar tune of *Silent night*. Now a business strategist and consultant, Kantor composed *Night of silence* while studying music at St. Thomas College (now St. Thomas University).

Malcolm Williamson was an organist, composer, nightclub pianist, and (from 1975 until his death in 2003) Master of the Queen's Music, and his organ work *O paradise* was included in the recent funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Musical settings of the text of Revelation that include more jazz-inflected harmonies than today's anthem, *Dignus est agnus*, are likely to be few and far between.

First performed in 1742, George Frederick Handel's *Messiah* tells the story of Christ from the accounts of the Old Testament prophets through his birth, death, resurrection, and glorification in heaven. Though Handel's story goes far beyond the gospel account of Jesus' birth, the *Messiah's* connection with Christmas goes back in the United States to 1818, when Boston's Handel and Haydn Society performed the complete oratorio on Christmas Day.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_