



**2nd Sunday of Advent:**

**Peace Can't Wait**

**First United Church of Christ**

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,  
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation**

**December 4, 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*

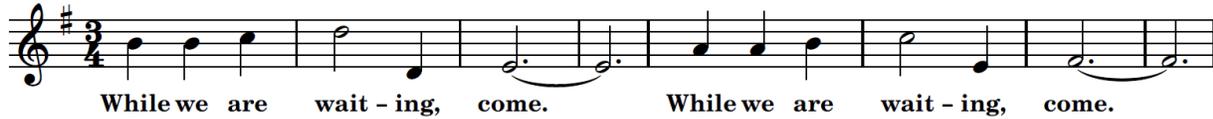
Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Gathering Music**

*While We are Waiting, Come*

Don Cason



**Call to Worship**

Sarah Are

One: Prepare the way!

**Many: Deck the halls and light the candles.**

One: Prepare the way!

**Many: Open the doors and sing a song of hope.**

One: Prepare the way!

**Many: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of peace.**

One: Christ is coming.

**Many: Prepare the way!**

**Opening Hymn**

*Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

#107 (Rejoice, Rejoice)

1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
For angels herald its dawning,  
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,  
Behold! The child of our longing.  
Come as a baby, weak and poor,  
To bring all hearts together,  
To open wide the heavenly door,  
And lives now inside us forever.

2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
Whose humble song is quiet and near,  
Yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul  
And hymns of loving kindness,  
The thunder of the anthems roll  
To shatter all hate and injustice.

3. In deepest night Christ's coming shall be  
When all the world is despairing,  
As morning light so quiet and free,  
So warm and gentle and caring.  
One without voice breaks forth in song,  
A lame one leaps in wonder,  
The weak are raised above the strong,  
And weapons are broken asunder.

4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night  
Through cold the winter and cheerless,  
The rising sun shall crown you with light,  
Be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer,  
And love, our endless story,  
May God fill every day we share,  
And bring us at last into glory

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Peace Can't Wait

Egeberg Hoffman Family

*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 peace.

**Many: This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.**

One: I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

**Many: We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.**

One: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.

[candle is lit]

**Many: May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness. 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.**

**An Ancient Word**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Randy Hachfeld, Leo Steinberg

**A Contemporary Word**

*Blessing in the Chaos*

Jan Richardson

**Sermon**

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**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.**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

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

**Offertory**

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

African American spiritual

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
 We are climbing Jacob's ladder, For this work's almost done.  
 Every round goes higher, higher,  
 It's our faith makes us happy,

Sisters, don't grow weary,  
 Brothers, don't grow weary, For this work's almost done.  
 Children, don't grow weary,

**Prayer of Thanks**

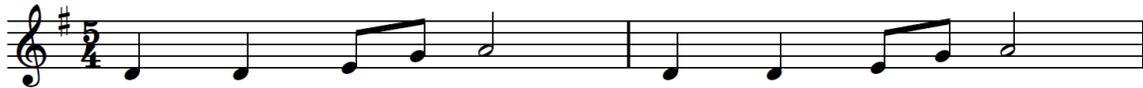
**God of gracious waiting, accept these gifts from the abundance of our hearts, given in gratitude and thanksgiving. Fill our hearts with a hope that won't let go as we journey through Advent and beyond. Amen.**

**Sacrament of Communion**

**Communion Hymn**

*This Bread Which We Break*

Ray Makeever



This	bread	which	we	break	This	wine	which	we	pour
This	love	in	our	hearts	This	faith	in	our	mind
This	meal	that	we	eat	This	song	that	we	sing



Sign	of	the	cov - e - nant	re - stored	Bod - y	and	blood	of	Christ	the	Lord	
Nour - ish	the	hopes	of	hu - man - kind	Bod - y	and	blood	for	this	de - signed		
Share	we	with	ev' - ry	liv - ing	thing	Bod - y	and	blood	to	life	we	bring

**Invitation & Telling the Story**

**Blessing the Meal**

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**      *(Please ready your bread and cup for partaking)*

**Music During Communion***Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Geonyong Lee (1947-)

Come now, O prince of peace, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now and set us free, O God our savior.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come, hope of unity, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

**Hymn of Sending***Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child*

#136 (Wonderful Child)

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild.  
New life, new hope the Child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

**Benediction****Postlude***Variations on "Puer Nobis"*

David Johnson (1922-1987)

**We're so glad you worshiped here today!****Thanks to this week's leaders:**

Ushers: Chuck Madson, Nalani McCutcheon, Kathy Sandberg, Mary Savina, Anne Meyer Ruppel, and Linda Larson

Digital Greeter: Carl Henry

Readers: Randy Hachfeld, Leo Steinberg

Instrumentalists: Gary Carlson, cello; David Hougen-Eitzman, mandolin; Kathy Kanazawa, African drum; Carol Rutz, recorder

**This Week at First UCC:****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)

### **Wednesday, December 7**

5:30 p.m. WFFF (Assembly Room)  
6:00 p.m. Kids' Musical Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
6:30 p.m. CONNECT Group Meeting (Library)

### **Thursday, December 8**

10:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting (Assembly Room)  
11:00 a.m. Creation Care (Sanctuary)

### **Sunday, December 11**

9:30 a.m. Kids' Musical Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering 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.

### **Congregational Meeting Called for Today**

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. Please plan to come back to the sanctuary after a brief time of fellowship in the Assembly Room.

### **Presentation on Trip to the U.S./Mexico Border**

After our business meeting, Gina Washburn will offer a brief presentation on her recent trip to the U.S./Mexico border. Please plan to stay for this informative presentation.

### **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 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](mailto: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?

### **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).

## **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).

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