

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, December 2, 2018

Prelude J. S. Bach
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Welcome

Introit Jacques Berthier (*Taizé*)
Prepare the Way of the Lord
Men's Ensemble

Call to Worship Dave Longfellow
Church Treasurer

The Candle of Hope

Leader: So let us light candles.

People: Candles of joy, despite all sadness,

Leader: Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

People: Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Leader: Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,

People: Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.

Leader: Candles of love to inspire all our living,

People: Candles that will burn all the year long.

Hymn 114 VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come Emmanuel, (*vs. 1*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prayer of Confession (Vance-Ocampo)

Jeanette Brodersen
O God, we confess that we have not always been patient.
We have wanted life to speed up quickly, our prayers to be answered yesterday,
or our lives to make sense today. We have wanted to rush rather than wait.
We struggle to live with unanswered questions,

wanting instead absolute truths so that we do not have to engage in the practice of discerning your will. As we begin this Advent Season, O Living Spirit, forgive us, and help us to slow down so that we might see you, hear you, and know you. Hear us pray...
(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem M. Praetorius
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 129 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Of Eternal Love Begotten

Of eternal love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven sings praises; angel hosts sweet anthems sing!
And on earth let all the faithful now their joyous carols ring,
ev'ry tongue Christ's name confessing, countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God Creator, and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Offertory While By My Sheep 17th C. German

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson Luke 21:25-36
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Peter Wiley

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Everyone is welcome to share in this meal.
Please serve one another the gluten free, tree nut and peanut free bread,
and eat as you are served symbolizing your individual need for Christ.
Hold the cup of juice until all are served,
that we may express our unity in Christ by drinking together.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 127 TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the King of Glory waits!
The Prince of Peace is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple,
set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here,
Lord, abide! Let me your inner presence feel; your
grace and love in me reveal.**

**So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler
life begin; your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glo-
rious crown be won.**

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude W. L. Wold

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying