

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, December 16, 2018

Prelude J. S. Bach
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Welcome

Introit JUDAS AND MARY
Isaiah, the Prophet, Has Written of Old
Women's Ensemble

The Candle of Peace Nat Leonard, *Council Moderator*
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, 2, & 3*)

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!

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and high; to us the path of knowledge

show, and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prayer of Confession adapted from T. Shuman
It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.
There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, Holy One. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus. Hear us pray ...

(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem 16th C. French, arr. C. Dobrinski
Ding, Dong Merrily on High
Handbell Choir

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

Dee Buchanan

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.

Sacrament of Baptism (10:30) Lewis Alexander Hester
Congregational Response: With joy we welcome you into this church. Your baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discovering just how much God loves you. This is our blessing to you: "Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear, for the Lord is with you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

Hymn 154

CRANHAM

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angles and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Pastoral Prayer

Jeanette Brodersen

Offertory

Mary's Lullaby

A. C. Bock II

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

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 155

IRBY

Once in Royal David's City

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his
bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her
little child.**

**Christ came down to earth from heaven, love incar-
nate for us all, and his shelter was a stable, and his
cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the
lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us
he grew, he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and
smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our
sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own
redeeming love; for that child who seemed so help-
less lives and reigns in heaven above; and he leads
his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude Prepare the Way, O Zion Paul Manz