

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Sunday, December 9, 2018**

**Prelude** C. Wesley  
Pastorale

**Welcome**

**Introit** T. M. Scott  
Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord  
Chancel Choir

**The Candle of Peace** Nancy Martinez  
Moderator-Elect

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. 2*)  
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. Re-  
joice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Isra-  
el!

**Prayer of Confession** adapted from Vance-Ocampo  
Gracious One, too often we have lost sight of your  
peace, forgetting your call upon our lives. Instead we  
have believed the lie that peace is elusive, or that it  
will never arrive, or that it is a dream we should stop  
wishing would come true. We have turned our faith  
over to things rather than trusting in your steadfast

presence that enables peace. Have mercy on us in this  
Advent Season. Restore in us once again your peace.  
Remind us that we are to be people of peace no matter  
the cost, no matter where it takes us. Hear us pray ...  
*(moments for silent reflections)*

**Words of Assurance**

**Anthem**  
9:00 Psallite M. Praetorius  
*Sing your psalms to Christ, the begotten Son of God,  
sing your psalms to the Redeemer, to the Lord,  
the little Child lying in a manger bed.  
A small Child lies in the manger.  
All the blessed angels fall before Him and sing.*

10:30 M. Haugen  
Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn  
*Choirs of Wonderful Wednesday*

**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 in-  
to temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Hymn 144** IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET  
O Come, Little Children  
O come, little children, O come, one and all, to Bethle-  
hem run, to the manger so small, and see this glad gift  
God has sent you this night to be your great gladness,  
your joy and delight.

He's born in a stable for you and for me; draw near by  
the bright gleaming starlight to see, in swaddling  
clothes lying so meek and so mild and purer than an-

gels, the heavenly child;

See Mary and Joseph with love beaming eyes are gaz-  
ing upon manger bed where he lies; the shepherds  
are kneeling with hearts full of love while angels  
sing loud alleluias above.

Dear Christ Child, what gifts can we children now  
bring? No riches or treasures, but carols to sing and  
hearts filled with praise we would offer today; we  
offer them gladly; accept them, we pray.

**Pastoral Prayer** Jeanette Brodersen

**Anthem** Sound the Trumpet H. Purcell  
Susan Wozniak, Emily Updegraff - sopranos

**Offertory** F. Mendelssohn  
Behold a Star from Jacob Shining

**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 3:1-6  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God.

**Sermon** Peter Wiley

Hymn 152

SUSSEX CAROL

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring; on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our gracious Savior's birth.**

**Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad; then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin Christ set us free, all for to gain our liberty.**

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night; all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God and peace to all, forevermore, Alleluia."**

**Benediction**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Postlude**

Gavotte

M. Camidge