

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, December 1, 2019

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

Welcome

Call to Worship Nat Leonard, *Past 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 (*verse 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)
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

Sacrament of Baptism (10:30) Oliver Elliot Grey
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."

Anthem Appalachian folk carol
I Wonder As I Wander
Handbell Choir, Sue Wozniak - soprano

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 154 CRANHAM
In the Bleak Midwinter
In the bleak mid-winter, 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 mid-winter, long ago.

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

Angels 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.

Offertory 16th C. Catalan carol
Fum, Fum, Fum
Karsen Guldan, Drew Hoschar - percussion

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 Isaiah 2:1-5
The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Sermon

Steve Hockstra

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.

Service Notes:

Call to Worship liturgy written by J. Gardner Spencer; adapted from The Mood of Christmas (1973) by the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 607

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious Kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

W. L. Wold

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying