



**First Sunday of Advent**  
December 1, 2024 10:30 a.m.



### **Making Room for Hope**

*As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.*

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" John Marsh

\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Randee Lodes & Ric Diesel

Hope waits for us at Ad-vent. Hope waits for us to trust. Hope waits for  
our com - mit - ment to a land that's kind and just. In this time of  
pre - par - a - tion for the work of co - cre - a - tion, for the birth - ing of a world that  
heals the ones in pain, Hope is born in us a - gain.

6 A D Em Cmaj7 A sus A G2 D/F#  
10 Em7 D/F# G2 D/F# Em7 D/F# G2 D/F# G A Bm  
15 C G D2 Em7 D/F# G G/B Bm D

\*PASSING THE PEACE:

The Hope of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

\*GATHERING HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #116 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack) vv.1-2, 6-7

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel**

**That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;**

**To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go. Refrain**

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;**

**Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight. Refrain**

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;**

**Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Refrain**

## CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33: 14-16                      Pew Bible. p.645  
A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 25:4-5                              Pew Bible p.436  
A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON    Sarah Fredriksen McCann

## SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “O How Shall I Receive You” #102 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**O how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,  
Blessed hope of every people, my soul’s delight and stay?  
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,  
To know whate’er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.**

**Loved caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

**You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
When a renewed creation your glory shall display.**

## NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: “Gloria” #756 *New Century Hymnal* (sing both verses)

Glo - ri - a,      glo - ri - a,      in ex - cel - sis      De - o!  
Glo-ry to God,      glo-ry to God,      glo - ry in      the high - est!

<sup>3</sup> Dm      Gm      C      F      <sup>4</sup> Dm      Gm      C      F

Glo - ri - a,      glo - ri - a,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo-ry to God,      glo-ry to God,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Andrew Moore  
*(Offer to God and then use this time for prayer. A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)*

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #782 *New Century Hymnal*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

#### INVITATION

The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom. Angelic messengers delivered news: **a priest lost his speech; a young woman found her voice.**

In this season of Advent, the scriptures revive old stories and bring new understandings.

**Our faith cries out, resilient, like a baby from a manger bed.**

From that Bethlehem beginning, Jesus, baptized in the Jordan, spent his life serving others that all might know the compassionate attention of a loving God.

**Today, Jesus serves us yet again, as we gather at this Table he prepares for us.**

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

Dear Jesus of Advent, you remain a sacred mystery to us. You have brought Good News for all the people and we will not be afraid, for you are here.

**We are hungry for your love which surpasses all our understanding;**

we are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry.

**In this meal nourish our souls, feed our minds, quench our deepest longings and forgive our transgressions, that we may glorify you every day of our lives. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Even in this Advent season, we dare to remember Jesus on a night when he faced betrayal, desertion, and even death, gathering with his closest friends and infusing the ordinary with new meaning. Jesus took bread, thanked God for it, and gave it to them saying, "take this and eat it, and know that I am always with you." After supper he took a cup of wine, thanked God for it, and gave it to them saying, "take this and drink it, and know that I am always with you."

**And so now we are bold to do the same, to take these simple, ordinary things, and let them be for us reminders that Jesus is always with us.**

## SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*(All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper! Elements will be served by ushers. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine cups. A tray of gluten-free wafers is available from usher in center aisle. Please hold the elements until all are served, so that we may commune together.)*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)*

**Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, a light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Amen.**

### \*COMMISSIONING HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #133 *New Century Hymnal* *(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring with peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts in human hearts the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

### \*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "O Thou of God the Father"

J. S. Bach

## SENDING

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

Worship Endnotes:

--Various elements adapted from [www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com)

--Communion liturgy adapted from [Our Faith Cries Out, Resilient: Service of Holy Communion for Advent](#),  
by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes

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### ***Worship Leaders December 1, 2024***

Pastor: Sarah McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Members of the Open and Affirming Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

Donate from your smart phone



*Thanks for your contribution to  
the ministries of Hope UCC!*

## **SEASON OF SHARING - 2024**

### **Mitten Tree - through December 8**

Mittens, hats and scarves are all welcome for both adults and very little ones – between the ages of one and five. Please place them on the tree or bring them to the church office from 9 a.m. to noon Monday – Thursday. The adult items will go to the Emmaus Home and items for children will go to the Caroline Mission.

### **Lydia's House Holiday Gift Card Ministry - through December 8**

The Outreach Ministry has made it even easier for Hope UCC to support *Lydia's House*- a refuge for moms and kids in abusive family relationships. Please consider donating a gift card from **Walmart, Aldi, Schnucks, Target, Old Navy or Amazon.**

Please place your donations in the offering plates.

### **Lydia's House Pins - December 1 - December 22**

Colorful and festive pins will be sold for \$20.00 each following both worship services. Proceeds benefit Lydia's House, a residential organization for abused women and their children.

### **Heifer International - December 1 - December 22**

As an alternative to more "stuff," give the gift that truly keeps giving! Heifer International provides a variety of animals to families in the USA and across the world, to help them establish a source of income. Donation cards can be given to friends or families indicating you "bought" a flock of chickens, honeybees or even a water buffalo in their honor! Please stop by the table in the narthex before or after the 10:30 service to get your Heifer donation cards.

### **Christmas Fund - December 22**

Formerly known as the 'Veterans of the Cross.' This fund helps provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. Envelopes for this annual United Church of Christ offering will be in your bulletins on December 22nd.