



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Joy!”
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church's Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Angela Spialek Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

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Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text.*

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted with permission from Rev. Susan Blain, Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ)

One: Rejoice! The spirit of God is sending us:

**Many: To bring good news to the oppressed, comfort the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, to proclaim the year of favor among
God's people.**

One: Rejoice! The work of the Spirit is calling us:

**Many: To rebuild ancient relationships ruined by injustice,
To repair the cities as places of hope,
To restore land devastated across generations.
To proclaim the year of favor among God's people.**

One: Rejoice! The Glory of the Spirit is leading us:

**Many: To cast off any faint spirit and put on the mantle of praise,
To take root as the plantings of the HOLY ONE, to display God's glory.**

One: Come, let us worship in Joy!

OPENING HYMN # 104 vs 1,2,4

"We Hail You God's Anointed"

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

GATHERING PRAYER

(Used with permission from Rev. Susan Blain, Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ)

One: Please join me in prayer:

**Many: Holy One, Builder who delights in making spaces of safety and beauty,
Matchmaker who rejoices in connecting new friends, new neighbors, new
communities with a future of hope, fill us today with the gifts we need to
join you in your life-sustaining, hope-giving work in the world; let us
share your joyful vision of beauty and justice in this world you have
created and loved. In the name of the One who is coming, Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

The Kent Family and Sue Sackett

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Away in a Manger”
(Brandon Frost)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11NRSV (pg. 678)

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46B-55 NRSV (pg. 932)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE # 116 vs 3

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

HOMILY

“Joy!”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Jubilate Amen”
(Judy Nielsen)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

OFFERING MOMENT

*Please give what you can by mail or through prayers.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com*

CLOSING HYMN Green Book vs 1-3

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

“The First Noel, Green Book”

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

CREDITS

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- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**
(#00118, One License # 732777-A, Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taize, Tune: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc.)
- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)
- **We Hail You God's Anointed**
(#124407, One License, Contributors: James Montgomery, Tune: Text: CMD; James Montgomery, 1821; alt. Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784.)
- **Away in a Manger**
(#94878, One License, Contributors: Public Domain, Tune: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, Text: St. 1-2, anon.; st. 3, McFarland; Public Domain)
- **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
(#92288, One License, Contributors: Public Domain, Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain; Mode I; arr. by Gary Daigle, b.1956; Public Domain Text: Veni, veni Emmanuel; Latin 9th C.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Public Domain)
- **Jubilate Amen**
(#1093378, One License, Contributors: Douglas Wagner, Tune: © 20018 Heritage Music Press/Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services) All Rights Reserved. ASCAP Text: © 20018 Heritage Music Press/Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services) All Rights Reserved. ASCAP)
- **The First Noel**
(#84266, Text and music: Trad. English carol, 17th cent. Contributors: THE FIRST NOWELL)

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

Advent Readers –Marcia, Jack, Ben, and Tim Kent, and Sue Sackett


- If you're struggling to find hope amidst all of the troubles of our world right now, one source that maybe be helpful is this: <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>
- The UCC is offering a special Advent series on faith-based justice training. Here is a link if you're interested in signing up or learning more: <https://frontline-faith.teachable.com/p/faith-based-organizing>

We Hail You God's Anointed


104

James Montgomery, 1821; alt.

Ps. 72




1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
 2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
 from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed:



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
 The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
 your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.

Written as a Christmas hymn for the Moravian settlement in Yorkshire, England, this hymn has enjoyed widespread popularity from the beginning. It is characteristic of Montgomery's deep faith and passion for social justice.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirttembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

Isaiah 61:1-4**New Revised Standard Version**

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Isaiah 61:8-11**New Revised Standard Version**

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom The LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The First Nowell

Traditional English Carol

THE FIRST NOWELL *Irregular with Refrain*
Traditional English Melody

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star Three
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far; And to the
 wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it
 rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered

they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave great light, And so it con -
 king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the
 there, in his pres - ence, Their gold and

night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.