



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Trusting God with Peace”

December 5, 2021

10:30 a.m. 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	Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Larry Patterson, Office Administrator	Chuck Byam, Organist
Ben Sackett, Custodian	Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Rev Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator	Nicole Finney, Child Care
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	

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• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

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.
As you enter the sanctuary, please share your offering in the offering plate by the door.
We ask that you wear a mask and social distance from others not in your family or pod.*

If you are new to our church or do not receive email updates from us, please share your name and contact information with us by contacting us: office@grandledgeucc.org

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

Grand Ringers

INTROIT

“Away in a Manger”
(Chancel Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Righteous one! Equitable one!

Many: Refining one! Delightful one!

One: Blessed one! Redeeming one!

Many: One-of-flesh to save all flesh!

One: Emmanuel, One of Us – praise be your coming!

Many: Amen!

ADVENT SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

CANDLE OF HOPE

Rev. Dr. Virginia Schiefelbein,
Lynn Hart and Jim Hart

GATHERING PRAYER

(Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi)

One: Please join me in prayer.

Many: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #104 vs 1-3

“We Hail You God’s Anointed”

(We will remain seated during the hymns, and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Long Time Ago”

(Chancel Choir)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Old Testament Lesson

Baruch 5:1-4 & 9 NRSV

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,

“Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.”

For God will lead Israel with joy,

in the light of his glory,

with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:67-79 NRSV (932-933)

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
Thus She has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered Her holy covenant,
the oath that She swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve Her without fear, in holiness and righteousness
before Her all our days.
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare Their ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to Their people
by the forgiveness of sins.
By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

“Trusting God with Peace”

(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Jesus He Shall Be Great”

(Chuck Byam)

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

(For those of us meeting in person, you are invited to place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. For those of you worshipping at home, please give what you can by mail or through prayers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com)

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God To Whom All Blessings Flow”

DEDICATION PRAYER

Beloved God, accept the gifts we offer, and bless them to the fulfillment of our calling. 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. May it be so. Amen

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: We lift them to God.
One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in the responsive Call to Confession:
O God, you have promised to make pathways straight so your people may walk in joyful safety. But in our arrogance, we create dangerous roads, secret ways based on privilege, which suit human standards, not yours.
Many: Forgive us.
One: You promise a way of justice and equity so that all may dwell in peace. But the valley between rich and poor has become an impassible chasm: We punish the poor. We make them sicker. We make them hungrier.
Many: Forgive us.
One: God, you rescued your children from the hands of their oppressors and called all of them to delight in your glory on the level path which leads home. But we oppress our siblings, claiming “crooked” means not straight, not white, not male, not cis.
Many: Forgive us for these corruptions of your good Word. Come again! Make our hearts alive with your truth!

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear this gracious promise: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God, who sees our flaws, who loves us into doing better, who forgives us and grants us salvation.
Many: Amen.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord.
Blessed is the one who comes,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom and the power and glory, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION SONG

“Come to the Table”
(Mary Lou Prevost and Linda Gooley)

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

Many: God, we thank you for inviting us to, and nurturing us at, this table. May we go forth from this table feeling peace in our hearts so that we may spread peace in our world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (Green Book) vs 1, 3, 4

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

(We will remain seated during the hymns, and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)

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

“The Holly Bears a Berry”
(Chuck Byam)

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Rich Brown

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Kelly Stuible-Clark

Sound Board - Charlynn Walker

Choir Director - Brandon Frost

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Usher – Chris Cypher

Greeter – Gary Cypher

Hymn Singer – Choir

Special Music – Mary Lou Prevost and Linda Gooley

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.

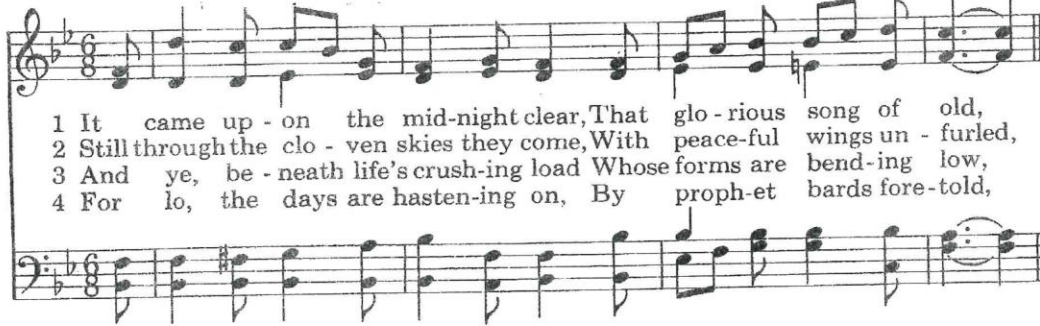
Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

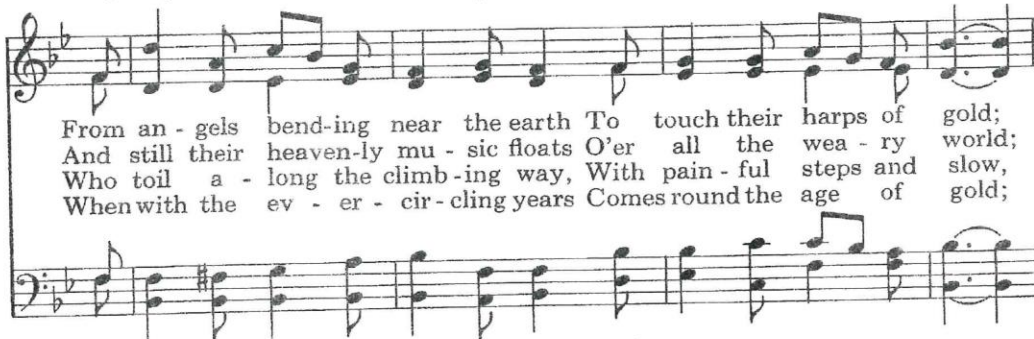
129

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.

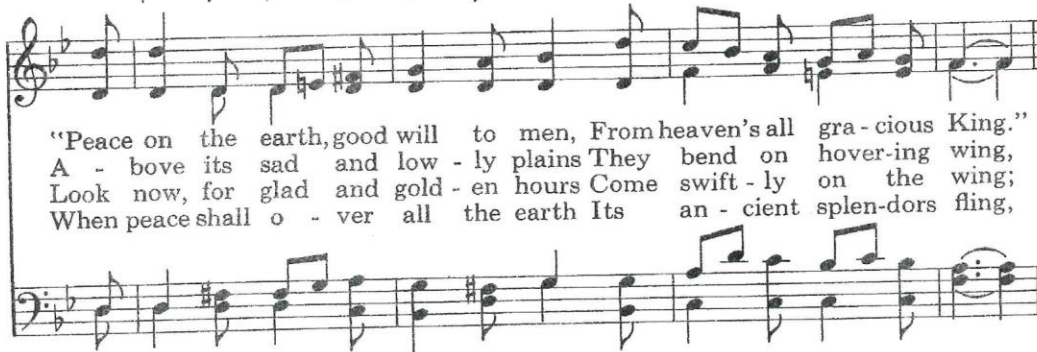
CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900



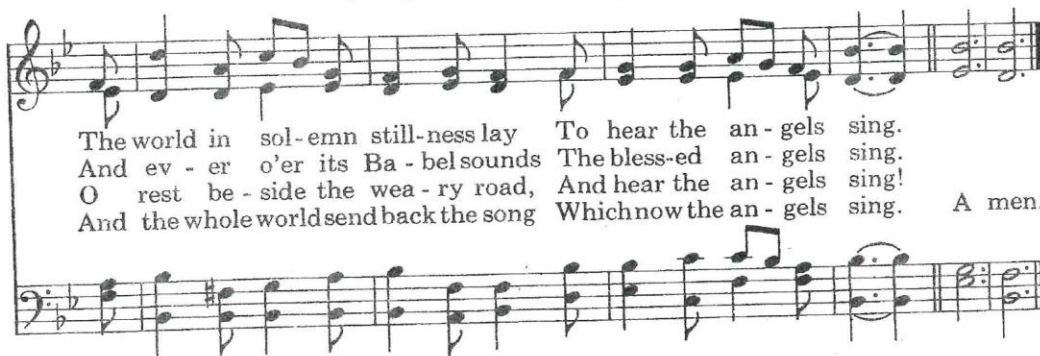
1 It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo, the days are hasten - ing on, By proph - et bards fore - told,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
And still their heav - en - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world;
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way, With pain - ful steps and slow,
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold;



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra - cious King."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hover - ing wing,
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;
When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing!
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A men.

BIRTH