

Announcements This Week

- ✓ **Welcome to our worship this day.** *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*
- ✓ **A very special "Thank You"** to all our readers this day.
- ✓ **Youth Sunday School begins at 9:30am** in the downstairs classroom. All are welcome.
- ✓ **Wednesday Study Group** Advent/Christmas Study reading, "Light of the World" by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. This week's topic is: Journey to Joy. Join us this Wednesday at 7pm in the Comfort Room.
- ✓ **The liturgy today** was written by Dennis Bratcher © 2018.

Please pray:

- **For the people of our world,** that the Advent of our Lord may inspire all to seek the reason for this season.
 - **All those who are ill or homebound or in care facilities.**
 - **For others in our lives, especially:** our Church Conference, Travelers, Military and First Responders.
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First Congregational United Church of Christ



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 1, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

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First Congregational Church UCC
"First Sunday of Advent"

Sunday, December 1, 2024 10:00 am

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"✝" Invites all to stand in body or in spirit

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

✝ GREETING (One/**Many**)

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

And also with you.

Christ has come! Christ has died! Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!

This is the faith of the Church of Jesus Christ!

When we look at the world around us, we see the darkness of war, captivity, greed, and broken relationships.

We long for Christ to come again and bring light to our world.

The Word of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ lives among us, bringing truth and light as a present reality.

We worship as those who have a glimpse of that reality; and we long for its fullness. We are those who labor to make Christ's light more visible on earth. Let us praise God, that the light of Christ shines on in the darkness, which has never overcome it. To God be the glory in Jesus Christ and in the church forever and ever. Amen.

✝ **HYMN** **CH #119 vs. 1**
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

OPENING PRAYER *[Adapted from a prayer for Christmas by Peter Marshall]*

THE MEANING OF THIS SERVICE

HYMN **CH #125 vss. 1&2**
"Come thou Long Expected Jesus"

CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA
THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS
THE CHRISTMAS TREE

CAROL **printed vs. 1**
"O Christmas Tree"

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
HYMN **CH #161 vss. 1 & 2**
"I Wonder as I Wander"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16
R: This is the Word of God. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL LESSON LUKE 21:29-38
R: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE CANDLES
HYMN **CH #153 vss. 1 & 4**
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

THE ADVENT WREATH
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Stephens Family
HYMN **CH #148 vs. 1**
"O Come, All You Faithful"

THE CRÛCHE OR NATIVITY
HYMN **CH #147 vss. 1 & 2**
"Away in a Manger"

A TIME OF PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER
A TIME OF OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC "Bring It to the Table"
sung by Dick Holdhusen

✝ DOXOLOGY
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of Life and New Life,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have made us one with Christ,
making us one with all your people.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
as we await the coming of Christ this advent
season. May we proclaim your redeeming love
to the world and continue forever in the new
life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

✠ HYMN

printed vss. 1&2

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

✠ BENEDICTION/BLESSING

✠ POSTLUDE



O CHRISTMAS TREE

***O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely;
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely.
Each year you bring to us delight
With brightly shining Christmas light!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely.***

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.