



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 2, 2018

The First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 166 years our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.* Please silence all electronic devices.

Assistive listening devices and large-print bulletins with hymns of the day are available at the Sanctuary doors. Deacons wearing white roses and Ushers wearing red roses can assist you.

Cards requesting prayer are in the pew racks and placed in the offering plate.

(* Indicates the congregation should stand as they are able.

*Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.
 'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.'
 (Psalm 48:8)*

PRELUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645 J.S. Bach
 (Wake, awake, for night is flying)

CHORAL INTROIT *Matin Responsory* David Willcocks, after Palestrina
 Justin Meyer, Christopher Humbert, Melissa Lawson,
 Elizabeth McConnaughey, *soloists*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
 High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say:
 Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
 Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
 Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come, to reign over thy people Israel.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar...

—from the First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins

ENTER TO WORSHIP Janet Newcity

Leader: Give thanks for the Lord is good.

All: God's love endures forever.

** Then all stand.*

L: The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.

P: Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.

L: Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.

P: Lord, we seek your presence among us.

L: Look closely! God is making us ready.

P: Brighten our Spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 6 Jesus comes with clouds descending *Helmsley*

* INVOCATION The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility. To you be all honor and glory, one God, now and forever. Amen.

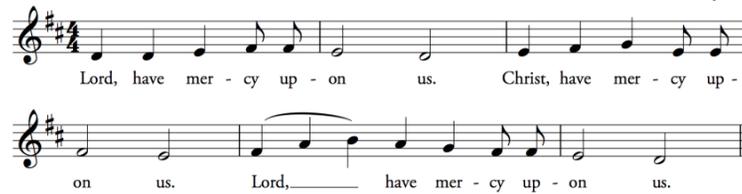
* CONFESSION OF SIN The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: It is time to wake from sleep. Salvation is near! Let us make confession to God.

P: Faithful God, we confess that in thought, word, and deed we have turned away from you. We have not eagerly expected your coming. We have been slow to serve you and our neighbor. Restore us, God of might. Let your face shine upon us. And we shall be saved. Amen.

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* KYRIE ELEISON Healey Willan



* ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Corzine

L: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

P: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ahrens

Please find the attendance pad at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor.

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME Mark S. Williams

ADVENT HYMN O come, O come, Emmanuel (*1st stanza*) *Veni Emmanuel*



LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Todd, Catherine, Aran Cunningham, Rupert "Twink" Starr

HYMN O come, O come, Emmanuel (*1st stanza*) *Veni Emmanuel*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14–16 (O.T., p. 738) Mrs. Newcity

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus *Stuttgart*

During the hymn, children in Kindergarten through Second Grade are invited to Worship Connections in the Children's Library on the second floor of the Education Wing. They will return after the meditation. A fully staffed childcare ministry is provided during each Sunday Morning Worship Service and Education Hour for infants through age four. This ministry is located in the Nursery and Toddler Rooms on the first floor of the Education Wing.

THE GOSPEL Luke 21:25–36 (N.T., p. 85) Rev. Corzine

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION "Not Quite There, Yet" Rev. Corzine

Part I of the Advent/Christmas Sermon Series, "Grace"

A time of reflection follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Ahrens

(Today, the Lord's Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)

THE OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION Dawn George

Cash and designated checks go to **Equitas Health** whose mission is to be a gateway to good health for those at risk of or affected by HIV/AIDS, and for the LGBTQ community, and for anyone seeking a welcoming healthcare home. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM Lift up your heads Orlando Gibbons

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
 and the King of glory shall come in.
 Who is the King of glory:
 the Lord strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
 and the King of glory shall come in.
 Who is the King of glory:
 even the LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.
 —Psalm 24:7–10

* PRESENTATION HYMN Praise God from whom all blessings flow

sung to *Tallis' Canon*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. (Wheat-free rice flour bread is available on the trays, cut into circles.) Cups with the purple ribbon around them are filled with wine.

* INVITATION Rev. Corzine

