



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
SERVICE LEAFLET

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 2, 2018

The First Sunday of Advent

* PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 25:1–10 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

P: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

P: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

P: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

L: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

P: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

L: You guide the humble in doing right and teach your way to the lowly.

P: All your paths are love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14–16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

THE SECOND READING Luke 21:25–36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

HOMILY

“Not Quite There, Yet”

Rev. Ahrens

Part I of the Advent/Christmas Sermon Series, “Grace”

MISSION INVITATION

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN 122

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve for more information and a QR link.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *celebrant*

Nancy Livingston, *pianist*

Jennifer Okezie-Watts, *liturgist*

Jared, Lee, Wesley & Spencer Kiesel, Kris Brant, *Advent Candle Lighters*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 (Advent II)

Liturgist: Scott Jones

Advent Candle Lighters: Lauren Muscott

Communion Preparation & Refreshments: Kris Brant