

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
December 11, 2022



Photo by Jon Tyson

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Third Sunday of Advent

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Chandler Litterest

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Advent Candle Lighter: Nancy Starr

Peace Candle Lighter: Jen Delfs

Liturgist: Ann Russ

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Light the Advent Candle of Love

**People who like candy canes: In this Season of Advent, we live in the yet, and not yet. God's love and presence is in all and through all. The kin-dom of God is at hand, is amongst us, and we wait for it to be fully realized.**

**People who like eggnog: We sing the Christmas carols and put up the decorations, though we wait to gather with family and friends and with our faith community. Jesus of Nazareth was born 2,000 years ago, yet we still celebrate his birth. Jesus, who we know as Christ, has died, been resurrected, ascended into heaven, and yet is still amongst us.**

**People who like ginger-bread houses: Jesus told us, "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among you." Wherever good news is brought to the poor, wherever people are healed, wherever justice is strived for, and love shared; God's kin-dom is at hand.**

Lighting of the Candle of Love

**People who like hot chocolate: God of Love, help us know your love and presence with each breath we take, each beat of our heart, and each word we speak. Fill our hearts, lives, and church with your love that is as gentle as a lamb but stronger than anything we can experience. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Lament

**Almighty God, Mary, the mother of Jesus said, "God has shown strength and scattered the proud in the thoughts of their heart. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; filled the hungry with good things, and sent away the rich empty." We're waiting, Merciful God, Father of Jesus of Nazareth and our Father; we are waiting. Amen.**

A Time of Silence

### **Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace**

**It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.**

## Final Notations by Adrienne Rich

*it will not be simple, it will not be long  
it will take little time, it will take all your thought  
it will take all your heart, it will take all your breath  
it will be short, it will not be simple*

*it will touch through your ribs, it will take all your heart  
it will not be long, it will occupy your thought  
as a city is occupied, as a bed is occupied  
it will take all your flesh, it will not be simple*

*you are coming into us who cannot withstand you  
you are coming into us who never wanted to withstand you  
you are taking parts of us into places never planned  
you are going far away with pieces of our lives*

*it will be short, it will take all your breath  
it will not be simple, it will become your will*

## Passing of the Peace

### Scripture Readings

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture James 5:7-10 (Common English Bible)

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. <sup>8</sup> You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture (New Revised Standard Version – Catholic Edition; St. John's Bible)

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What

then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Children's Message:**      What do we see?

**Message:**      Heartbeat of Justice

**Musical Reflections**

**Communion** (We serve gluten-free bread)

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father/Mother God, who are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Our Time of Giving**

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God for all that love has done;*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

**News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

**Closing Hymn Red Hymnal #94 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]
- 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

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## **Benediction**

## **Sending Music**