



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, December 10, 2023

**1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254**

www.fccmuskegon.org

<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2023</p>
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WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRGIG (Rejoice, Rejoice Believers),
Swedish Folk Tune, Arranged by Paul Manz

GATHERING PRAYER

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God of light, we come before you
in a world that often seems dark and dangerous.**

**May the radiance of your glory fill us
With a peace that passes understanding,
and give us grace to bring peace to others.**

This we ask in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music. The first system contains two verses of lyrics. The second and third systems continue the melody with single verses. The fourth system is a double bar line. The fifth system is a grand staff (treble and bass clef) with two verses of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes tied across measures.

1.O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who came to all on
2.O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Si - nai high, And from its peak a sin - gle law
tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your peo - ple save,

pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall
come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*, 1710, Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore, 1854

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

CHORAL ANTHEM

Ye Shall Go Out With Joy, by Norah Duncan
Asa Orion, soloist

Ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace: the mountains and the hills will break into songs before you, and trees of the field will clap their hands in praise to the Lord,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
Ev'ry valley shall be raised, and mountains be made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. *Ye shall go out...*
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be healed, the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. *Ye shall go out...*
The mountains and hills shout for joy! The seas and the rivers shout for joy! The blind and the lame shout for joy! Prepare ye the way of the Lord! Prepare ye with joy!

Text and Music by Norah Duncan IV, © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.

MESSAGE

MAKE STRAIGHT THE PATHS, PREPARE THE WAY

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

1. The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the
2. The earth and sky and sea now feel that
3. Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for
4. O One who comes to set us free, O

earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y
which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing
God ap - proach - es day by day; Pre - pare for such a
Child, to you, our song will be, With Fa - ther, Spir - it

sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!
in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.
wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.
moth - er - ing, to you shall praise for - ev - er ring!

Text: Charles Coffin, 1736, Transl. © 1993 The Pilgrim Press, Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Choir first, then all repeat.

Come to us, Em - man - u - el, al - le-lu - ia!

Shine in our dark - ness, Hope of the world, al - le-lu - ia!

Text and Music by Stephen Van Wye, © 2015 by GIA Publications, Inc.

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Now Bless the God of Israel



1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who
2. Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God
3. In ten - der mer - cy, God will send The



comes in love and pow'r, Who rais - es from the
res - cues us from fear, That we might serve in
day - spring from on high, Our ris - ing sun, the



roy - al house De - liv - 'rance in this hour. Through
ho - li - ness And peace from year to year; And
light of life For those who sit and sigh. God



ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn To
you, my child, shall go be - fore To
comes to guide our way to peace, That



free us from a - larm, To save us from the
preach, to proph - e - sy, That all may know the
death shall reign no more. Sing prais - es to the



heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.
ten - der love, The grace of God most high.
Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

BREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN (Prepare the Royal Highway),
Swedish Folk Tune, Arranged by Paul Manz

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
Megan Perreault	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
The Bullion Family	Advent Readers
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Altar Flowers are sponsored by Sue Mixer in memory of her husband Robert Mixer D.D.S, and her son Sargent Nicolas Paquette – Air Force.

The Westshore GSA Youth Group will be hosting other GSA's from local schools for a Holiday Mixer Party from 6:30 to 8pm on Monday, December 11, here at First Congregational Church.

Triple your Love pantry donations on Dec. 16 at North Muskegon Meijer. A \$20 "Simply Give" purchase creates a \$60 value for FCC supplies. Another way to help the Food Pantry is to bring canned or boxed foods on a Sunday morning and place them in the basket in the narthex. Many thanks!

Please join us for our Candlelight Concert tonight at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters E through J please bring cookies or treats during the month of December. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated.

First Congregational Church, UCC is an Open and Affirming Community

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21