

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2023

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



LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

he 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

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore



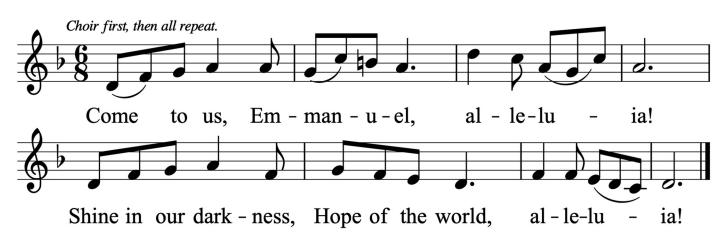
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . 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



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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

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CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

The

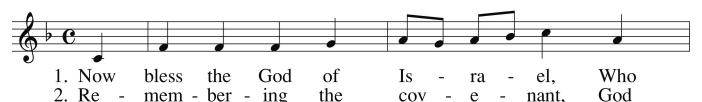
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God

Now Bless the God of Israel

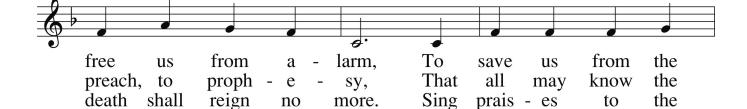


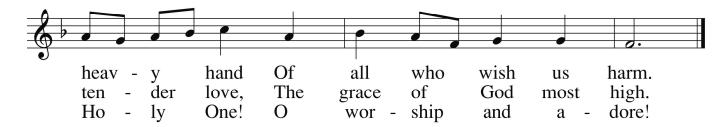
mer - cy,

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









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

Dr. Michael Match

John Mattson

The Motet Choir

Megan Perreault

The Rullian Family

Advent Bandare

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