

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 24, 2023

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 24, 2023**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

Prelude on IL EST NÉ, by Raymond Haan

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.

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome.

**Remove the things that rob us of hope and peace
and hinder us in receiving Christ with joy.**

May we become one in Christ's love.

This we ask in Jesus' name.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide your
2. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your



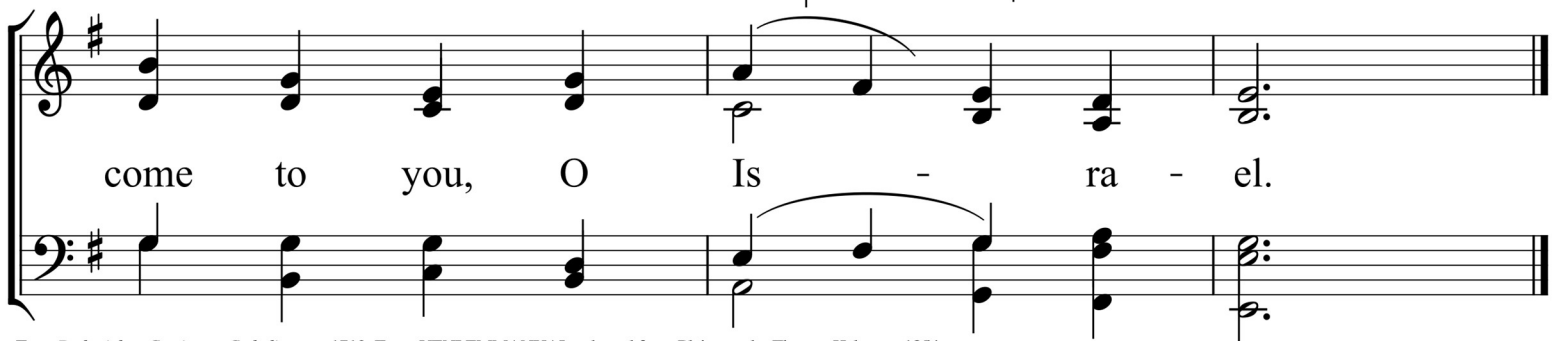
heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to end - less day,
ad - vent here; Love stir with - in the womb of night,



to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.
and death's own shad - ows put to flight.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall



come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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

AN INTERACTIVE, NO-REHEARSAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Written by Rev. Norman Allen,
Minister of First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist

Participants

Gillian Major

Brady Perreault

Carter Perreault

Jon Witmer

Elisabeth Major

Michael Match

CAROLS FOR PAGEANT

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Scene One: O Little Town of Bethlehem

***O Little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.***





Scene Two: The First Nowell

*The first nowell the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

Scene Three: Go Tell it on the Mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn...*



Scene Four: Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Scene Five: Joy to the World

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven
and nature sing.*



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 HYMN

We Hail You God's Anointed

*We hail you God's anointed, the long-awaited one!
Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*You shall come down like shower upon the fruitful earth;
And joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.*

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.**

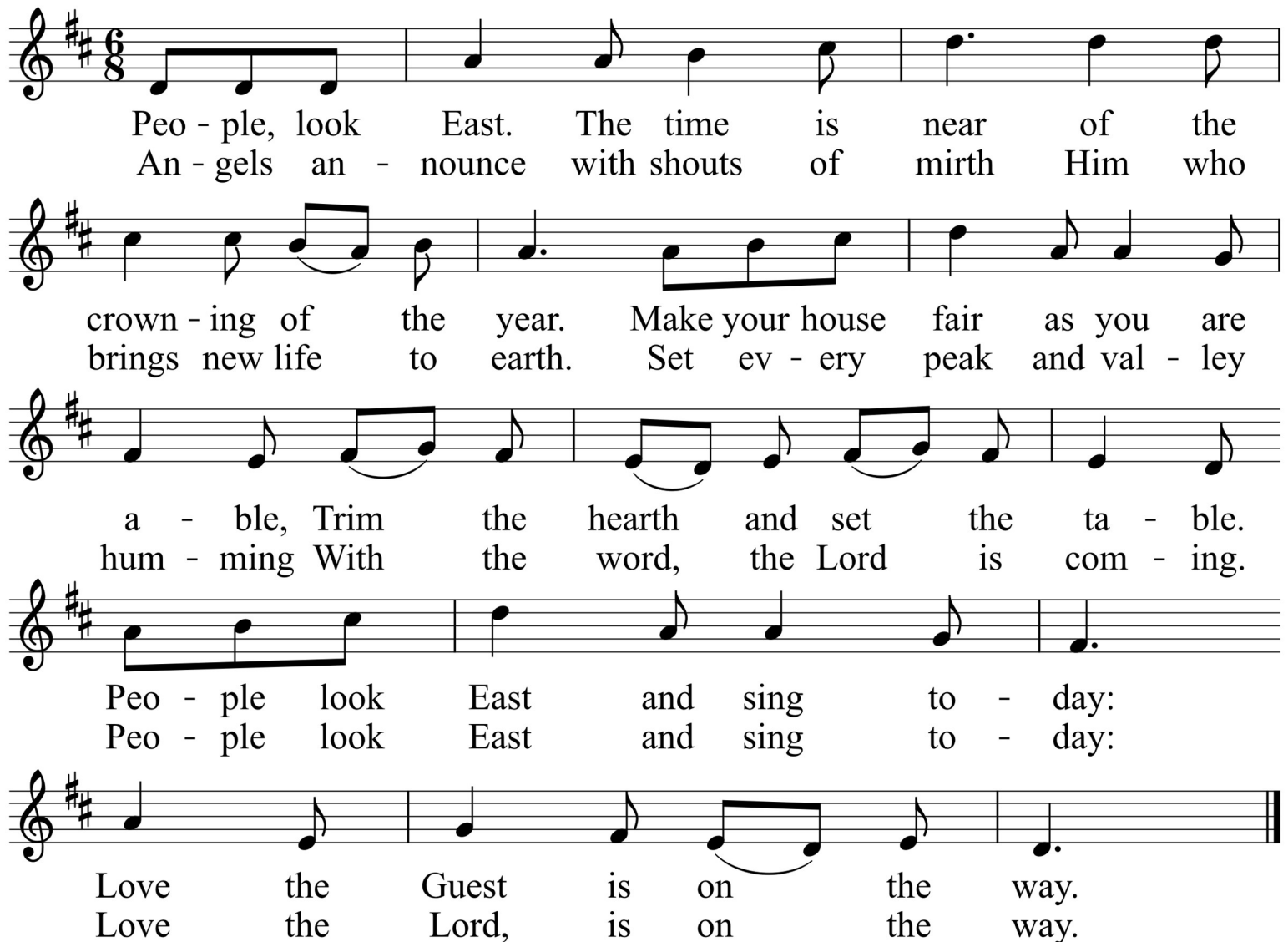
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

People, Look East

Those who wish may stand



Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the
An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth Him who
crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley
a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing.
Peo - ple look East and sing to - day:
Peo - ple look East and sing to - day:
Love the Guest is on the way.
Love the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, © David Higham Assoc. Ltd, Tune: BESANCON, French Traditional

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Festival Postlude on Hark! the Herald Angels Sing,
By Neil Harmon

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
The Perreault Family
Blake Filius

Pastor
Music Director/Cantor
Organist
Advent Family
Audio and Video

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Altar flowers are sponsored by Mike Frasier in memory of his grandmother Ruth Ellen Frasier.

Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Pageant today.

*Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service of **Lessons and Carols** with the Motet Choir, Canterbury Ringers, and FCC Festival Brass Sunday, December 24, 2023. **10:45** pm Prelude **11:00** pm Service.*

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters K through N please bring cookies or treats during the month of January. Home made and Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated.

The next Saturday Breakfast is December 30. It is a free meal for all and is from 9:00 to 10:30 am.

We hope to begin the No Name monthly dinners in January and we're looking for individuals/couples willing to serve as hosts who will select the restaurant. In the past this event has been held on the second Thursday of the month. Interested individuals can sign up at the welcome center or contact the church office for more details.

The Women's Single Group will meet at the Valkyrie Restaurant at the 4 corners in North Muskegon on January 2, 2024, at 1:00 pm. A signup sheet is in the welcome center or contact Judy Dewall.

Just a reminder that the church office is closed during the week of Christmas and New Year's Day. You may contact staff by email if you need assistance.

Communion Sunday in January will be January 14, 2024.

Mobile Food Pantry at FCC will be on Saturday, January 6 at 10:00 am.