

First Congregational United Church of Christ
November 27, 2022



Photo by Nick Fewings

Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Jenny Delfs

Liturgist: Bob Carter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words of Lighting the Advent Wreath

***People who ate too much:* In this season of Advent, we gather together to prepare our homes, our community, and world for the proclamation of good news of undaunted hope.**

***People who still have turkey in the fridge:* We walk through the season once more, of lights, music, food, and fellowship that gives us a glimpse of what the world could be; of what the world will be when the kingdom of God is fully realized.**

***People who are thankful:* As the days grow darker outside, and sometimes our lives, we light a single candle to bring hope for the brightening of days that are to come, for the warmth of the flame against the cold, and for the vision of our faith so we may walk in the light of the LORD.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

***People who have hope:* God of Hope, tell us again that the ear has not heard, nor eye seen, nor human imagination envisioned what you have prepared for those whom you love. Assure us that there is an end to the violence of our world and of fear and hate between all your children. Guide us that we may carry this hope into the world and do our part in bringing your kingdom to fruition. Amen.**

Words of Lament

Merciful God, it is hard to have hope when the violence of mass shootings happens again and again. It is hard to have hope when our children, our religious minorities, and those who are different are targeted again and again. We proclaim, "No more!" knowing they are empty words. Give us a word of hope, God of love. Give us something more than platitudes and empty promises. Let hope for a better world mean something to those who live in fear. Amen.

A Time of Silence

Words for Blessing the Earth (Iroquois Prayer)

One: We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us.

Many: We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.

All: We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases. We return thanks to the corn, and to her sisters, the beans and squashes, which give us life.

One: We return thanks to the wind, which, moving the air has banished diseases.

Many: We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light which the sun was gone.

All: We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye. Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in whom is embodied all goodness, and who directs all things for the good of his children.

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.

If You Come Softly

by Audre Lorde

*If you come as softly
As the wind within the trees
You may hear what I hear
See what sorrow sees.*

*If you come as lightly
As threading dew
I will take you gladly
Nor ask more of you.*

*You may sit beside me
Silent as a breath
Only those who stay dead
Shall remember death.*

*And if you come I will be silent
Nor speak harsh words to you.
I will not ask you why now.
Or how, or what you do.*

*We shall sit here, softly
Beneath two different years
And the rich between us
Shall drink our tears.*

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

Scripture Isaiah 2:1-5 (New Revised Standard Version)

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.
⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Children's Message: No more war starts with us

Message: Many peoples shall come

Musical Reflections

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

Our Father, Mother God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and 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 #86 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, thou Day-spring come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Refrain
- 3 O come, thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Refrain
4. O come, Desire of nations,
Bind All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Refrain

Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890.
Contributors: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

Benediction

Sending Music