



First Congregational United Church of Christ December 31 , 2023

1st Sunday after Christmas

Partners in Ministry: **All who are a part of this church**

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere** Preacher: **Rev. Rolf Morck**

Musician: **Linda Noble** Choir Director: **Ann Russ**

Peace Poem: **Steve Aldrich** Liturgist: **Jenny Delfs**

Greeter: Usher:

Coffee-Hour Host: **Steve Aldrich**



Path to Peace

درب الى السلام



Gathering Music
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 91)

One: It is good to praise you, LORD, and celebrate your name in song, Most High- to proclaim your love in the morning and your fidelity through the watches of the night,

Many: To the music of a ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. Your deeds, LORD, fill me with joy; I shout in triumph over the work of your hands.

One: How great are your works, LORD! How profound your thoughts! The seas are shouting, LORD – the seas raise their voices; the seas shout with pounding waves.

Many: Stronger than the thunder of great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightiest of all is the LORD! Your reign was made known from of old; the holy ones praise you in your Temple, LORD, for days without end.

Opening Hymn **Red Hymnal # 91** Angels, from the Realms of Glory ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

Merciful God, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we acknowledge that too many of your children in this day and age are not safe, not loved, and in harm's way. Parent God! Help us to love each child as if they were the Christ child. Help us to protect them, care for them, and fill them with love and all good things. Amen.

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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

Enough for Me –Fadwa Tuqan

*Enough for Me
Enough for me to die on her earth
be buried in her
to melt and vanish into her soil
then sprout forth as a flower
played with by a child from my country.
Enough for me to remain
in my country's embrace
to be in her close as a handful of dust
a sprig of grass
a flower.*

Passing of the Peace

Hymn **Red Hymnal #119** I Wonder as I Wander ([click here](#))

Scripture Reading Mark 1:1-20 (The First Egalitarian Translation)

1:1 Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: **2** as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, **3** a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God. Clear a straight path.'"

4 And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. **6** John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. **7** In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. **8** I have baptized you by water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

9 It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. **10** Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove. **11** Then a voice from heaven came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

12 Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, **13** and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. **14** After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: **15** "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!" **16** While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. **17** Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind." **18** Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their nets and followed him.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. **20** Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

Choir Anthem

Message Rev. Rolf Morck

Musical Reflections

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

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

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*

Closing Hymn **Red Hymnal #84** On Jordan's Bank ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music

Announcements



Prayer List: Rhonda Silence, Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo, Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar, and Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.

After fifty-two weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$164,110.00. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$155,388.72.

-Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

This Week at the Church

Sunday, December 31

10:30 AM – Worship 1st Sunday after Christmas This Sunday will be led by the capable Rev. Rolf Morck who has preached in our service before. As we are in the Narrative Lectionary, we begin in the Gospel of Mark. There is no birth narrative, but the gospel does pack a lot into it.

Fellowship to Follow.

Monday, January 1 - Happy New Year!

7:00 PM – Al-Anon

Tuesday, January 2

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Wednesday, January 3

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

6:00 PM – Confirmation Class

Thursday, January 4

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

11:00 AM – Building and Grounds Committee

12:00 PM – AA

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Friday, January 5

7:00 AM – AA

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch from wherever you can look outside

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

7:30 PM – AA

Saturday, January 6

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Sunday, January 7

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM – Worship 1st Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus is beginning his ministry and word is quickly spreading about his teachings and his healings. In today's story, we have a group of people who literally go above and beyond what is expected to bring their friend to Jesus so that he can walk again. Jesus also takes it up a notch and proclaims this man forgiven to which the religious leaders respond that it is not possible.

Fellowship to Follow.



Opening Hymn Red Hymnal # 91 **Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him; Every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

5. All creation, join in praising, God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising, To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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*Words, James Montgomery.
Tune, Henry T. Smart, 1867
One-License No. A-738474*



Red Hymnal #119 | Wonder as I Wander

1. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'nary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

2. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
The promise of ages it did then recall.

3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

4. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord'nary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

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*Appalachian Carol,
Words and Tune John Jacob Niles
Harm. by John Ferguson, 1973
One-License No. A-738474*



Closing Hymn Red Hymnal #84 **On Jordan's Bank**

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way of God within,
And let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward:
Without thy grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.

4. to heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent doth thy people free;
Whom with the father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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*Words, Charles Coffin, 1736
Transl. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
Tune, Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690
One-License No. A-738474*