

DECEMBER 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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**WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS**

**WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE’S JOURNEY, *YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.***

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ADVENT IS A TIME OF PREPARATION, A PERIOD FOR EACH OF US TO EXAMINE OURSELVES IN THE LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD AND WILL - AND TO TURN TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS AND REDEMPTION.

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(\*) INDICATES WHEN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE FRIENDSHIP BOOK AS IT IS PASSED DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS; THEN PASS IT TOWARD THE CENTER AISLE.)

**READING OUR MISSION STATEMENT (INSERT)**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (RESPONSIVE LITANY)**

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE PRAY FOR GOD’S PEACE.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR PEACE.**

LEADER: WE WITNESS THE HOSTILITY BETWEEN NATIONS AND NEIGHBORS.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR PEACE.**

LEADER: WE SEE A WORLD FULL OF FRACTURED RELATIONSHIPS AND UNFORGIVING HEARTS.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR PEACE.**

LEADER: WE SEEK RELIEF FROM OUR OWN INNER TURMOIL AND RESTLESSNESS.

**ALL: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT AND THE SOURCE OF OUR PEACE.**

**[JOIN THE CHOIR IN REFRAIN - SEE INSERT]**

**\*OPENING HYMN: THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE (INSERT)**

THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

**\*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

**LAY READER, KAREN BACON**

**ALL: PRAISES SURGE WITHIN US, CHRIST, BECAUSE YOU COME TO US AMIDST OUR FEAR, CONFUSION, AND DISTRESS. NEWS OF YOUR NEARNESS BRINGS COMFORT AND STRENGTH. YOU ARE OUR HOPE. FILL THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HEAVEN’S PEACE. AMEN.**

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI (SUNG)**

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.**

WORDS: ANONYMOUS, 4TH CENTURY. MUSIC: HENRY GRETOREX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

**ANTHEM**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 11:1-10**

**SERMON: “WHERE DO WE START?”**

**REV. DICK HOTCHKIN**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)**

**\*HYMN: #102 O HOW SHALL I RECEIVE YOU (ALL VERSES)**

PAUL GERHARDT, 1653

**SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

LEADER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.**

**PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.**

**PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.**

**PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.**

**WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD’S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: #107 AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN (ALL VERSES)**

MARTY HAUGEN, 1983; REV. 1993

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*UNISON RESPONSE:**

**AND GOD WILL RAISE YOU UP ON EAGLE’S WINGS, BEAR YOU ON THE BREATH OF DAWN, MAKE YOU TO SHINE LIKE THE SUN, AND HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF GOD’S HAND. AMEN.**

**POSTLUDE**

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING’S WORSHIP MINISTRY

GREETERS: ANN & JEFF GEROW

USHERS: MAX & VICKY LINDSAY

FELLOWSHIP: DECEMBER LUNCHEON

ALTAR GUILD: VICKY LINDSAY

LAY READER: KAREN BACON

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

|        |             |          |                       |
|--------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| SUNDAY | DECEMBER 7  | 10:00 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE       |
| MONDAY | DECEMBER 8  | 5:30 PM  | BOARD MEETING         |
| FRIDAY | DECEMBER 12 | 10:30 AM | WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS** ARE INCLUDED AS AN INSERT IN TODAY’S BULLETIN. YOUR ORDERS HELP DECORATE OUR WORSHIP SPACE BEAUTIFULLY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.
- ❖ **PLEDGE CARDS** MAY BE PICKED UP FROM THE BACK TABLE IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ONE OR NEED ANOTHER.
- ❖ WE ARE COLLECTING WARM HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, AND SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS WINTER. PLACE THEM ON THE **MITTEN TREE** ACROSS FROM PASTOR’S OFFICE.
- ❖ OUR ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS FUND** COLLECTION WILL BE RECEIVED ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO THIS MEANINGFUL OUTREACH EFFORT.
- ❖ THE **GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS** FACILITATED BY REV. GENE BACON CONTINUES **DECEMBER 5TH**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.
- ❖ **UPCOMING DATES** TO NOTE:
  - **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & OPEN HOUSE ~ 5:30 TO 7:30PM (DECEMBER 19)**
  - **CHRISTMAS EVE ~ PRELUDE 6:30 P.M. WORSHIP ~ 7:00PM (DECEMBER 24)**
- ❖ SEE NANCY WEDGE TO GRAB SOME DISHCLOTHS (\$2.50 EACH) FOR STOCKING STUFFERS OR GIFT EXCHANGE GIFTS. CORN BROOMS (\$20 EACH) ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.
- ❖ PLEASE CHECK FOR **CARDS AND CARE LETTERS** IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
- ❖ **FOOD PANTRY** NEEDS FOR DECEMBER FOOD BOXES: CHICKEN OR TURKEY GRAVY (CANNED OR PACKAGED), AU GRATIN POTATOES (IN BOXES OUR POUCHES), TUNA OR CHICKEN HELPER, CEREAL (ALL KINDS). CURRENTLY, THERE ARE OVER 200 FAMILIES SEEKING FOOD BOXES. PLEASE USE THE BAGS ON THE TABLE IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY FOR YOUR SHOPPING NEEDS.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED, SHOWN ON THE INTERNET, AS THEY ARE HAPPENING AND RECORDED FOR VIEWING ONLINE LATER. PEOPLE IN THE SANCTUARY ATTENDING THE SUNDAY SERVICE MAY BE SEEN AS PART OF THE LIVE-STREAM AND RECORDING.

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A UNISEX HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IS LOCATED THROUGH THE DOORS TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU EXIT THE SANCTUARY. A HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE LADIES RESTROOM IS NEAR THE LOCKWOOD STREET ENTRANCE. A MEN’S ROOM IS IN THE MIDDLE HALLWAY.
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 7, 2025

*As an Open and Affirming congregation,  
we welcome people as they are,  
share Jesus as He is, and serve  
our community and the world in love.*



*The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Hotchkin, Transition Minister*  
*The Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus*  
Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*  
Office Administrator: *Leslie Reynolds*  
Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*  
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*  
Office hours: 9:00am — 1:00pm, Monday — Thursday  
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