

DECEMBER 21, 2025  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
~~~

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.)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

LEADER: DURING ADVENT WE SEE GOD’S LOVE FOR US EMBODIED IN OUR SAVIOR’S BIRTH.

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

LEADER: ADVENT CALLS US TO LOVE OTHERS WITH PATIENCE AND KINDNESS.

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

LEADER: ADVENT REMINDS US TO BE SLOW TO ANGER AND QUICK TO FORGIVE.

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

LEADER: ADVENT REMINDS US THAT CHRIST COMMANDED US TO LOVE AS HE LOVED.

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

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

\*OPENING HYMN: #116 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (VERSES 6-7)

*PSALTERIOLUM CANTIONUM CATHOLICARUM*, 1710 BASED ON ANCIENT ANTIPHONS FROM ADVENT VESPERS TRANSL. JOHN  
MASON NEALE, 1851, AND OTHERS; ALT. ST. 2, 7, TRANSL. HENRY SLOANE COFFIN, 1916; ALT.

\*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

LAY READER, LYNN BORKE

**ALL: MERCIFUL GOD, YOU SENT JESUS THROUGH THE WOMB OF MARY TO BE OUR SAVIOR.**

**WE GIVE YOU PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR CHILD. YOU SENT YOUR WORD  
TO BECOME FLESH AND DWELL AMONG US. WE GLORIFY YOUR HOLY NAME FOR BLESSING US  
WITH YOUR GRACE AND TRUTH. YOU HAVE SENT THE TRUE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD TO LIGHT OUR  
PATH TO SALVATION. WE HONOR YOU FOR LEADING US OUT OF DARKNESS. 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 GREATORIX. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

SERMON: “PERPLEXED?”

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

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

\*HYMN: #110 NOW BLESS THE GOD OF ISRAEL (VERSES 1 & 3)

RUTH DUCK, 1985

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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN: #117 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES (ALL VERSES)

GEORG WEISSEL, 1641

\*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:** TRISH McLAREN  
**USHERS:** GARY & SANDY JARMUZEWSKI  
**FELLOWSHIP:** MAX & VICKY LINDSAY

**ALTAR GUILD:** VICKY LINDSAY  
**LAY READER:** LYNN BORKE

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

|           |             |          |                       |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| SUNDAY    | DECEMBER 21 | 10:00 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE       |
| WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 24 | 6:30 PM  | MUSICAL PRELUDE       |
|           |             | 7:00 PM  | CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY **JOY & DAVE SHOEMAKER** IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR **54TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**.
- ❖ PLEDGE CARDS MAY BE PICKED UP FROM THE BACK TABLE IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ONE OR NEED ANOTHER.
- ❖ THE **GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS** FACILITATED BY REV. GENE BACON WILL CONTINUE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS ON **JANUARY 2ND**.
- ❖ WE ARE COLLECTING WARM HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, AND SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS WINTER. PLACE THEM ON THE MITTEN TREE ACROSS FROM THE PASTOR’S OFFICE.
- ❖ **LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** WILL MEET ON **JANUARY 2ND** AT **POMPEYO’S** AT 12:00 NOON. PLEASE JOIN US AS WE GREET THE NEW YEAR. CALL DOTTIE 989-916-4104 WITH QUESTIONS.
- ❖ THERE’S STILL TIME TO 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), AND CEREAL (ALL KINDS).  
**MESSAGE FROM KATHY CECI:** THE FOOD PANTRY IS UNABLE TO STAY STOCKED WITH CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP. IT SEEMS THAT IS WHAT MOST FAMILIES WANT. THANK YOU FOR BEING SO SUPPORTIVE OF THE FOOD PANTRY.

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.

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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 21, 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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