

WELCOME, ALL WORSHIPERS

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

***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.

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PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LORI MAYER, LAY READER

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ANTHEM: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE

**“HOPE IS LIKE A CANDLE BURNING IN THE NIGHT. HOPE PAINTS EVERY SHADOW WITH ITS
GENTLE LIGHT. GLOWING LIKE A PROMISE TILL OUR FAITH IS SIGHT, HOPE IS LIKE A CANDLE
IN THE NIGHT. PEACE IS LIKE SWEET MUSIC SOUNDING PURE AND STRONG — SINGING
SONGS OF COMFORT WHEN THE NIGHT IS LONG. TURNING DRUMS OF HATRED INTO HEAVENS
SONG, PEACE LIKE SWEET MUSIC PURE AND STRONG.”**

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***OPENING HYMN: #96 SUN OF MY SOUL, O SAVIOR DEAR (VERSES 1-2)**

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CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

LEADER: COME FROM THE DARK ALLEYS OF LIFE; WALK THE STREETS THAT ARE BATHED
IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

ALL: IT IS HARD TO LEAVE OUR COMFORT ZONE EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT WHAT WE DESIRE.

LEADER: THE CHRIST OF FAITH COMES AND GENTLY BECKONS US TO A NEW ADVENTURE
OF LIFE TO BE SHARED WITH HIM AS OUR COMPANION.

**ALL: LIVING LORD, TAKE OUR HANDS; TAKE OUR HEARTS; TAKE OUR WILLS; MAKE
THEM YOURS.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

**ALL: LOVING GOD, YOUR DREAMS ARE NOT ALWAYS OUR DREAMS. SOMETIMES WE PLACE
OUR OWN AGENDA ABOVE YOURS. GOD OF ADVENT, GOD OF ALL OUR HOPE AND
EXPECTATIONS, GOD WHOSE COMING AS A CHILD SHOCKED THE WORLD AND CAUSED IT TO
REJOICE, COME AGAIN. SET US FREE FROM OURSELVES; COME INTO EVERY FACET OF OUR
BEING, INTO ALL OUR HOPES, INTO EVERY EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL. 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 GREATOR. THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

ANTHEM

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS: MATTHEW 1:18-25
LUKE 1:26-38**

SERMON: “SPECIAL MESSENGERS”

REV. RICHARD HOTCHKIN

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

***HYMN: #104 WE HAIL YOU GOD’S ANOINTED (VERSES 1-2)**

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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: #107 AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN** (VERSES 3-4)
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***BENEDICTION: GO IN PEACE. LET THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON YOU, AND LINGER IN YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGHOUT THE COMING WEEK, AND FOREVERMORE. AMEN.**

***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**

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| LAY READER: LORI MAYER | USHER: BORIS GERBER |
| ALTAR GUILD: VICKY LINDSAY | FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: BILL & DOTTIE HAASE |
| GREETER: MARY MINNICK | COUNTERS: DENNIS & JAN ARTLEY |

| THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|
| SUNDAY | DECEMBER 10 | 10:00 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE |
| | | | VETERANS OF THE CROSS |
| MONDAY | DECEMBER 11 | 5:50 PM | BOARD MEETING |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ SEE INSERT.

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 10, 2023

*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: *Nancy Ross*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

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