

NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST 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: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE LONG FOR GOD’S PRESENCE.

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

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE SEARCH FOR GOD’S TRUTH.

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

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE SEEK GOD’S GUIDANCE.

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

LEADER: IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE REMEMBER GOD’S PROMISE.

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

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

**\*OPENING HYMN: #116 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL** (VERSES 1-3)

*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.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

LAY READER, LORI MAYER

LEADER: REJOICE, PEOPLE, REJOICE.

**ALL: THE LORD WILL GATHER US IN HOPE.**

LEADER: THE LORD WILL GUARD US IN FAITHFULNESS.

**ALL: THE LORD WILL RENEW US IN LOVE.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

**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: **MATTHEW 3:1-12**

SERMON: **“GET READY!”**

REV. DICK HOTCHKIN

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

**\*HYMN: #122 COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS** (ALL VERSES)

CHARLES WESLEY, 1744; ALT.

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: #104 WE HAIL YOU GOD’S ANOINTED** (ALL VERSES)

JAMES MONTGOMERY, 1821: ALT.

**\*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**

## ALTAR GUILD: CINDY STRALEY

**LAY READER: LORI MAYER**

**COUNTER:** NANCY WEDGE

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

|        |             |          |                           |
|--------|-------------|----------|---------------------------|
| SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 30 | 10:00 AM | WORSHIP SERVICE           |
| MONDAY | DECEMBER 1  | 5:30 PM  | WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING |
| FRIDAY | DECEMBER 5  | 10:30 AM | WORLD RELIGIONS CLASS     |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **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 ON **DECEMBER 5TH**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.
- ❖ **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.**
- ❖ **UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:**
  - **LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** WILL MEET EARLIER IN **DECEMBER** ON THE **5TH** AT **JJ's STEAK & PIZZA HOUSE** AT **11:30 A.M.** CONTACT DOTTIE HAASE (989-916-4104) for more information.
  - **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 7TH (TICKETS \$15.00 AVAILABLE UNTIL DEC. 1)** CONTACT NANCY WEDGE (989-356-4402 OR WEDGE.NANCY@GMAIL.COM) FOR TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.
  - **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & OPEN HOUSE (DECEMBER 19).**
- ❖ **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 OR 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.

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

**November 30, 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

Phone: (989) 356-1795

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