

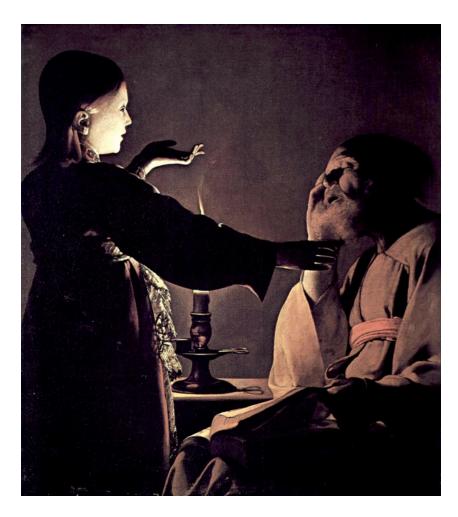
### First Congregational United Church of Christ

608 West Fourth Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50702

www.firstcongucc.org Office: (319) 234-8927

@FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa/

# Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022



**Guest Preacher** 

Rev. James Altenbaumer

**Worship Leader** 

Barb Mardis

**Director of Music** 

Luke Overton

**Organist** 

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Director of Youth

Abbie Chronister

Office Manager

Michelle Wolfe

Custodian

Kyle Lindaman

## No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Prelude Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Welcome & Announcements

Barb Mardis

Call to Worship Barb Mardis

Leader: We are courageous

All: When we are vulnerable.

Leader: We are courageous

All: When we are honest with ourselves.

Leader: We are courageous

All: When we extend words of welcome.

Leader: We are courageous

All: When we invite others to sit with us.

Leader: We are courageous

All: When we proclaim the love of God to a broken world.

Leader: We are courageous

All: When we say that love cannot wait.

Leader: So let us be courageous
All: Let us worship Holy God.

#### \*Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Rev. Jim Altenbaumer

Gracious God, we long to be as courageous as Joseph—Brave enough to trust Your call, And strong enough to hold onto one another. There are so many places in the world that could use our courage. You know them, but we do too. So when fear takes over, forgive us. When our knees shake and our words fail, forgive us. When self-hatred is easier than self-love, forgive us. When walls are more convenient than peace, forgive us. When pessimism is more convenient than hope, forgive us. When our comfort is more important than our neighbor, forgive us. You invite us to be courageous. Forgive us. Amen.

#### \*Words of Assurance

Rev. Altenbaumer

An angel said to Zechariah—an angel said to Mary—an angel said to the shepherds—an angel says to us: "Fear not! Your prayer has been heard. You have found favor with God. I bring you good news of great joy: To you is born a Savior. Go forth with courageous love, and be good news to all you meet.

\*Hymn

Now Bless the God of Israel

#110 (NCH - Black)

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** 

(Love Can't Wait)

Jennifer Thompson & Eva Sapp

**Children's Skit** "How the Grinch Found the Christ in Christmas"

Original tale by Dr. Seuss / Adapted as a religious Christmas program by Valerie Lynch

Joys & Concerns

Barb Mardis

#### Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Altenbaumer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**Invitation to Offertory** 

Barb Mardis

**Offertory** Chancel Choir

\*Doxology #515 (Pilgrim - Red)

\*Prayer of Dedication Barb Mardis

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Barb Mardis

\***Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #116, vs. 1, 6 & 7

(NCH - Black)

Message "When God Is With Us" Rev. Altenbaumer

\*Hymn Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates #117 (NCH - Black)

**Benediction** Rev. Altenbaumer

Postlude Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* You are invited to Stand

(Hearing assistance devices are available in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary.)

Childcare for students up to 5th grade is provided after the Children's Skit through the end of service. We welcome your child(ren) to follow youth staff to the childcare room (located at the bottom of the steps closest to the sanctuary) at the conclusion of the skit.