

# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

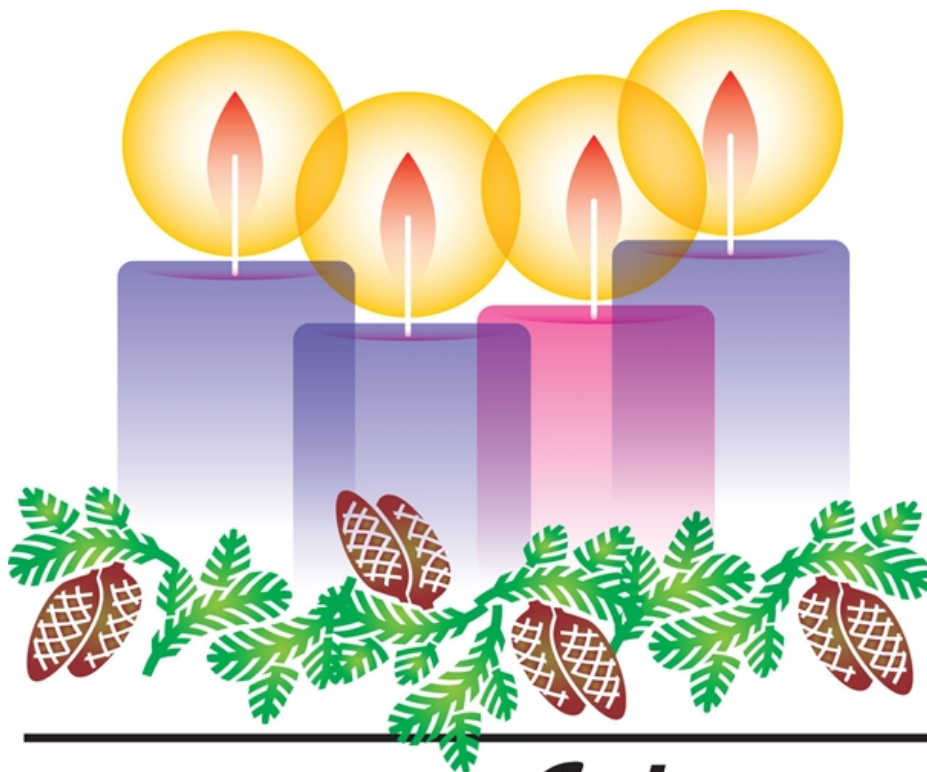
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# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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**Worship Leader**  
Anne Hoekstra

**Mini Message**  
John Mardis

**Director of Music**  
Luke Overton

**Guest Preacher**  
Rev. Cathy Young

**Organist**  
Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**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** Anne Hoekstra

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** *Praise* Josh, Erin, Ada & Lauren Brock-Medhus  
(We Wait in Hope" by Joel Raney) - Intro Choir

Leader: Advent is a time to praise.

**All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

**All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

**All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Leader: During Advent we remember God's future promises.

**All: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

### **Candle Lighting**

**Congregation Response** *We Wait in Hope* (See Insert)

### **\*Prayer (unison)**

God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #116 (Pilgrim - Red)

**Joys & Concerns** Anne Hoekstra

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer** Rev. Cathy Young

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.

**Mini-Message** John Mardis

**Choral Anthem** *Could This Be the Day?*- Joseph Martin Chancel Choir

**Scripture Reading** Luke 2:1-7; Philippians 4:4-7 Anne Hoekstra

**\*Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #134 (Pilgrim - Red)

**Message** "Grateful Praise!" Rev. Cathy Young

**Invitation to Offertory** Anne Hoekstra

<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Offertory Response</b>	<i>We Give You But Your Own</i>	#785 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Anne Hoekstra
<b>*Closing Hymn</b>	<i>Joy to the World!</i>	#130 (Pilgrim - Red)
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Cathy Young
<b>Postlude</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld


\* You are invited to Stand

## We Wait in Hope


*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

**Congregation:  
Refrain**




<p>(1st Sunday) We wait in  (2nd Sunday) We watch in  (3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in  (4th Sunday) We praise with  (Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with</p>	}	<p>hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,</p>
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for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate \_\_\_\_\_ the night. \_\_\_\_\_

<p>We wait with  We watch with  We pre - pare with  We praise with  We pro - claim with</p>	}	<p>joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;</p>
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<p>we wait in  we watch in  we pre - pare in  we praise with  we pro - claim with</p>	}	<p>hope for peace on earth.</p>
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