



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 West Fourth St
Waterloo IA 50702

www.firstcongucc.org
phone 319-234-8927



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



Worship Leader

Paul Greene

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
Introit		John Mardis
Welcome & Announcements		Paul Greene
Lighting of the Advent Candle	<i>Prepare</i>	Rich & Kay Thuesen
(We Wait in Hope" by Joel Raney) - Intro Choir		
Leader: Advent is a time to prepare.		
All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.		
Leader: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.		
All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.		
Leader: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.		
All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.		
Leader: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.		
All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.		
Leader: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.		
All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.		
Candle Lighting		
Congregation Response	<i>We Wait in Hope</i>	(See Page 4)
*Prayer (unison)		
God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait for you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do. Amen.		
*Hymn	<i>Keep Awake, Be Always Ready</i>	#112 (NCH - Black)
Joys & Concerns		Paul Greene
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	<i>We Wait</i> - Ruth Elaine Schram	Chancel Choir
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:26-38; Luke 3:1-6	Paul Greene

*Hymn	Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus	#122 (NCH - Black)
Message	<i>“Preparing for Rebirth”</i>	Rev. Cathy Young
Invitation to Offertory		Paul Greene
Offertory	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
*Doxology		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
*Prayer of Dedication		Paul Greene
*Closing Hymn	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	#132 (Pilgrim - Red)
Benediction		Rev. Cathy Young
Postlude	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld

* You are invited to Stand

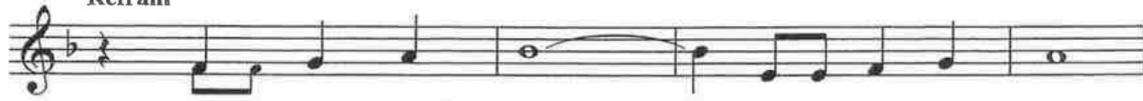
*Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Mini-Message.
We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the
youth director’s office at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.*

We Wait in Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

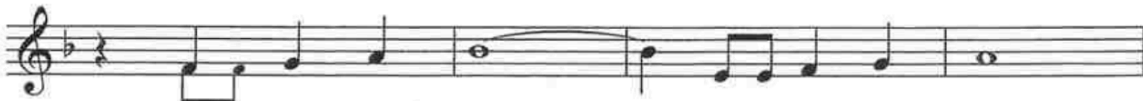
Congregation:
Refrain



(1st Sunday)	We	wait	in	}	hope _____	for the morn - ing	Light,
(2nd Sunday)	We	watch	in				
(3rd Sunday)	We	pre - pare	in				
(4th Sunday)	We	praise	with				
(Christmas Eve)	We	pro - claim	with				



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



	We	wait	with	}	joy _____	for the Sav - ior's	birth;
	We	watch	with				
	We	pre - pare	with				
	We	praise	with				
	We	pro - claim	with				



	we	wait	in	}	hope	for peace on	earth.
	we	watch	in				
	we	pre - pare	in				
	we	praise	with				
	we	pro - claim	with				

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