



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Christmas Eve Bulletin

December 24, 2023



LESSONS & CAROLS

the promise of the Messiah - the birth of Jesus
Scripture - carols - choral music - hymns

*There is good news of great joy for all!
Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.*

Luke 2:10-11

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

Prelude

Touch of Brass Handbells

Ringling of the Chimes

***Processional Hymn**

Once in Royal David's City

#145 (Black)

(Choir will sing v.1, please join us in singing vs. 2-5)

Greetings

Rev. James Altenbaumer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Proclaim

Molly, Sam, Jim & Nancy Stevenson

(We Wait in Hope" by Joel Raney) - Intro Choir

Leader: Advent is a time to proclaim.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Leader: We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Candle Lighting

Congregation Response

We Wait in Hope

(See Screen)

Prayer

Stevenson Family

God in heaven, we thank you for guiding us through our Advent journey. Through waiting, watching, preparing, and praising, we are now ready to proclaim. Help us receive the glory of Christmas, as we celebrate and rejoice that you have come to us through the gift of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.

Amen.

***Opening Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#132 (Red)

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Barb Mardis

Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order of creation.

Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1, 3, 4)

#110 (Red)

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Abbie Chronister

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

Carol	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	Arr. Paul Christiansen - Chancel Choir
Third Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 <i>The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.</i>	Craig Mahood
Carol	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	#131 (Red)
Fourth Lesson	Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 <i>The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.</i>	Jacqueline Eden
Carol	<i>What Child is This</i>	Arr. John Leavitt - Chancel Choir
Offering Invitation / Prayer		
Offertory	A Christmas Contemplation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
Carol	<i>The First Noel</i> (vs. 1, 2)	#141 (Red)
Fifth Lesson	Luke 1:26-35, 38 <i>An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.</i>	Kay Leary
Carol	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	#120 (Red)
Sixth Lesson	Luke 2:1-7 <i>Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.</i>	Seth Chronister
Carol	<i>Away in the Manger</i>	#137 (Red)
Seventh Lesson	Luke 2:8-16 <i>Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.</i>	Anita Altenbaumer
Carol	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	Arr. John Leavitt - Chancel Choir
Eighth Lesson	John 1:1-14 <i>The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.</i>	Sue Hummel
*Carol	<i>Joy to the World!</i>	#130 (Red)
Invitation to the Lord's Table	Rev. Altenbaumer (Hudson playing <i>O Holy Night</i> - Adolphe Adams)	
Sacrament of Communion		
Lighting of the Candles		
*Hymn	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	#138 (Red)

***Charge and Blessing**

Leader: Arise and shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: Alleluia!

Leader: Go now and bear witness to the light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

***Closing Hymn**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

#488 (Red)

Postlude

Christmas Carol Medley

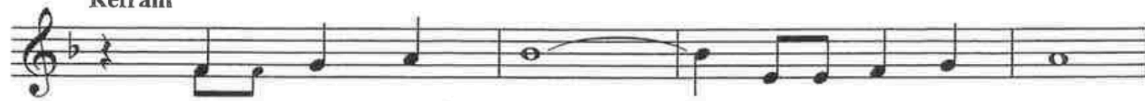
Hudson Lourenço-Feld

We Wait in Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

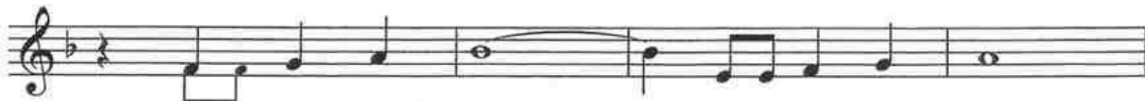
Congregation:
Refrain



(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 } hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



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



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



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

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