



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Waterloo IA 50702

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First Sunday of Advent

Advent 
WEEK ONE
Hope

December 1, 2024

Worship Leader

Sue Hummel

Mini Message

Brandyn Miller

Director of Music

Luke Overton

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		Hudson Lourenço-Feld
Welcome and Announcements		Sue Hummel
*Advent Candle Lighting		The Mahood Family
Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.		
Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.		
Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.		
*Advent Song of Response	<i>Come, O Long-Expected Jesus</i> (v. 1)	#122 (NCH - Black)
*Prayer of Invocation (unison)		Sue Hummel
Merciful God, As we begin this Advent season, we marvel at Your boundless love. Like the woman who anointed Jesus with extravagant devotion, may we be stirred by the wonder of Your mercy poured out for us. Open our hearts to Your presence and fill this time of worship with Your Spirit. Teach us to reflect Your grace in our lives as we wait with hope for the coming of Christ. Amen.		
*Opening Hymn	<i>Watcher, Tell Us of the Night</i>	#103 (NCH - Black)
Mini-Message		Brandyn Miller
Special Music		Hudson Lourenço-Feld
Invitation to Offertory		Sue Hummel
Offertory	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
*Doxology		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
*Prayer of Dedication		Sue Hummel
Mini-Message		Brandyn Miller
Old Testament Reading	<i>Mark 14:3-9</i>	Sue Hummel
Leader: This is the word of the Lord		
All: Thanks be to God!		

Message "The Wonder of God's Mercy" Brandyn Miller

***Hymn of Response** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #110 (Pilgrim - Red)

Joys & Concerns Sue Hummel

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (unison) Brandyn Miller

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.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

All: Merciful God, We thank You for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we leave this table, fill us with wonder at Your boundless mercy. Strengthen us to live as vessels of Your grace, sharing Your love with all we meet. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Parting Hymn** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* #345 (NCH - Black)

***Benediction** Brandyn Miller

Postlude Hudson Lourenço-Feld

* Please Rise in Body or Spirit

Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Mini-Message until Communion (youth will come back to participate in Communion with their families). We welcome your child(ren) to follow youth staff at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.