



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You

Second Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word – December 6, 2020

9:30 AM

The Gathering

“There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others.” – Mandy Hale

Ringing of the Bell
Our Life Together
The Solemn Declaration
Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship God

All: who gives light to see the way

Leader: Come, let us worship God

All: who gives hope to walk in faith

Leader: Come, let us worship God

All: who came as a child.

Leader: Come let us worship God!

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Heavenly Father, your will reigns in us every day of our lives. Let your kingdom come and may we feel your presence in our lives. As we gather in this place, be with us and help us to increase our knowledge of you. Be our Alpha and Omega. Bless us beyond measure and fill us with your peace. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We are those who wait for the Lord.

All: We wait for a sign; we wait for a cure; we wait for hope.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we wait for God to come to us again.

All: We light this candle in our waiting, to give us light to warm us, to be a sign to welcome to the One who is coming to us again.

Advent Song

Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord. Light the candle, watch and pray, the Child of hope will come to save. Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord.

The Refreshment of Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are merciful and forgiving to your people, even though we have rebelled against you. Many times, we have turned away from you to try and rule our own lives. We have sinned in thought, word and deed but your mercy is greater than our sins. Your love is bigger than our rebellion. You have said that our faith will never be put to shame when we trust in you. Forgive us Lord, and guide our words, thoughts and deeds today that we may live in a way that glorifies you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed)

Leader: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The Gift of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

New Testament Lesson 2 Peter 3:8:15a

Gospel Lesson Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

A Message of Hope

Jan Garinger

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response** **“Doxology”** **#778 (NCH)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to
you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these
offerings become a source of hope and love in this church family, our
community, and beyond. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

The Ministry of Prayer

Lifting up our joys and concerns and those in need of prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (using debts and debtors)

The Gathered Go Forth to Serve

***Benediction**

Leader: In all our traveling

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: In our journeying to work and returning

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: Within our homes and families

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: In our leisure time together

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: In difficult situations and conflict

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: As we stumble on the way

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: In the travelling of our faith

All: May your footsteps guide us

Leader: As we place our trust in you

**All: May your footsteps guide us. In all our travelling, Lord,
may it be your footsteps in which we place our feet.**

***Three-fold Amen**

#812 (NCH)

*Postlude

*Indicates that all who are able, please stand. **Bold** print indicates unison reading.
Notice Someone Missing? *If so give them a call and let them know they are missed.*