



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

We Welcome You on this

First Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word - November 28, 2021

9:30 AM

The Gathering

Ringing of the Church Tower Bell

Our Life Together

The Solemn Declaration

Prelude

*Call to Worship

***Sung Response**

**Hope waits for us at Advent
Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment
To a land that's kind and just.
In this time of preparation
For the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain.
Hope is born in us again!**

"Insert

***Lighting of the Candle of Hope**

***Sung Response**

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Hope waits for our commitment
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***The Peace**

Leader: The Hope of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

**(As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, we invite you to pass a
"wave" of peace to the people around you!)**

***Opening Hymn**

"We Hail You God's Anointed"

#104 (NCH)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**The chances we have to be more compassionate;
the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give
to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright
God, of how we fail to live as your people. Do not meditate on our bungling
ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of Your heart. That
mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially,
that living mercy who came down one night so long ago,
Jesus the Advent of our redemption.**

(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives,
our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the
kingdom of God approaches.

**All: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the
salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!
Amen.**

***Choral Response**

"Gloria Patri"

#759 (NCH)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Listening for the Word

A Time with the Children

Hymn of Preparation

"Spirit of the Living God"

#283(NCH)

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh
on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh
on me.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Second Reading

Psalm 25: 4-5

Sermon

"We Open the Door"

Jim Cope

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People “Make of My Heart a Stable”
(The refrain is played through once, then the people sing. Please join in the response
when indicated by the pastor praying.)

Choral Response

#Insert

**Make of my heart a stable,
A house for the holy,
A warm and sturdy place
For hope to live and grow.**

The Prayer of Jesus (debts and debtors)

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Offertory Response “Take My Gifts” #562(NCH)**

**Take whatever I can offer, gifts that I have yet to find, Skills that I am slow
to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in
the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of
all loved me.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Because of You, Abundant God, we have blessings to offer to others. May
You use our gifts to restore hope to the despairing, to feed the hungry, and to
fill the empty hearts of the lonely. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn of Mission**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(additional verse)**

#133 (NCH)

**“Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.”**

***Benediction**

*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.*