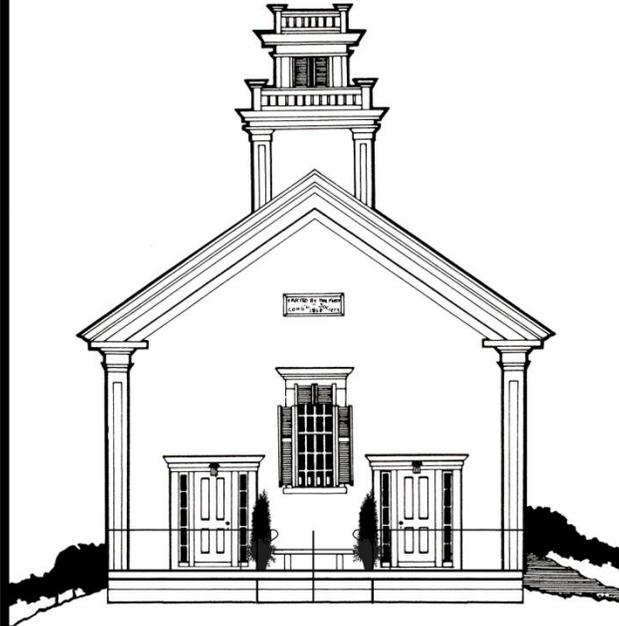


Church *on the* Rise



**First Congregational Church, UCC
Wilmot, New Hampshire**

*No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome in this
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.*

***Order of Service for
Sunday, November 29, 2020***

**Minister: Rev. Sara Marean
Music Director: William Ogmundson**

ORDER of WORSHIP – November 29, 2020

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: After such suffering,
We go searching for a sign, any sign.
The sun seems to dim, the moon fails, the stars fall.
We need a sign, any sign.

All: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

One: We hope that the Human One is on the way,
gathering the faithful from the four winds,
into a place of peace –
We need a sign, any sign.

All: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

One: Nature once offered signs to depend on:
The fig tree put out tender leaves,
and we knew summer was near—
But climate today
Is hurting, and unpredictable.
We need a sign, any sign.

All: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming.

One: So together we search for a sign of the One who is coming--
Clarity in confusion
Green shoot in a barren landscape
Song arising in a weary soul.

All: Be aware, stay awake, change is coming

One: Come, let us worship!

HYMN O COME, O COME EMMANUEL #119

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Come into our midst, O Holy One,
Rider of the Clouds of Heaven,
Surprising answer to heartfelt prayer.
In whatever way you choose—
Come. Shake us up.
Help us find you at work in our lives
Showing the way to make all things new.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer followed by **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our * 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. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and
the glory forever. Amen**

**We have come to know God by many different names and images. Please use the one which speaks from your heart today. (e.g. Father, Mother, Creator...)*

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Advent Wreath

Litany of the Greens

Leader: It is the season of Advent. How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Holy Child of God?

People: By hearing again the words of scripture, foretelling the saving work of God.

Leader: For God did not send this Child into the world to condemn it, but that through the way of Jesus the world might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Garlands and Wreaths

Carol *Deck the Halls*

Verse 1:

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la . . .!

'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la . . .!

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la . . .!

Troll the ancient yuletide carol, Fa la la . . .!

Verse 2:

See the blazing yule before us, Fa la la . . .!

Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la . . .!

Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la . . .!

While I tell of yuletide treasure, Fa la la . . .!

Holly and Ivy

Carol *The Holly and the Ivy*

Verse 1:

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

Refrain:

The rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir,

Verse 2:

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as a lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Savior.

Refrain:

The rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

Poinsettias

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Verse 1:

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth; the ever lasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2:

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and Peace to All on Earth.

The Christmas Tree

Carol *O Christmas Tree*

Verse 1:

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
How faithful are your branches!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
How faithful are your branches!
So green when summer breezes blow;
Still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How faithful are your branches!

The Crèche

Carol *Away in a Manger*

Verse 1:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 2:

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

MESSAGE

REV. SARA MAREAN

DECORATING YOUR HOMES!

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

One: Violence stalks the world. Families flee in fear. From where will their hope come?

Many: From One who was born to save, and who became a refugee in the process.

One: The planet warms with every turn. Storms worsen; the poor pay the price. From where will their hope come?

Many: From One who taught Noah to survive the flood, One who walked across its surface, One who promised that we would not be overwhelmed.

One: One among us is waiting for the doctor's call. Another staggers with depression. From where will their hope come?

Many: From One who has wept and despaired and then emptied tombs.

One: Desire of Nations, Glory of Heaven, Light of the World: You are our hope, you are our light.

Many: We don't know the hour of your coming, so until then, let us be the hope and the light. See us shining, and come.

The first candle is lit. Silence is kept.

One: Like calls to like. Deep calls to deep. After shadow, light.

Many: Deep calls to deep. Like calls to like. After shadow, light.

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation and Offertory

Doxology

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 hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us.

Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you.

May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice.

May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.

HYMN "Come, O Long-expected Jesus" Chalice Hymnal #125

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free.

From our fears and sins release us; Chris, in whom our rest shall be.

You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;

Dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

COMMISSIONING ONE ANOTHER

Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE "Alleluia!"