

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 6th, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Vernelle Mercer

PRELUDE Of the Father's Love Begotten Gilbert M. Martin

CHORAL INTROIT Christ is Coming!

Joachim Neander

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The day of God is coming; lift up your voices.

Cry out with the strength God provides.

We await God's coming day with anticipation.

We seek the peace and patience God provides.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

We will prepare the way for One who is coming.

We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

God will feed us like a shepherd.

God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

God's hand is upon us in blessing;

We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

*HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verses 1, 3, 5 #133

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our

massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on its own survival than on its mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sins forgiven, our paths made straight. God's glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news. Surely our salvation is at hand. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground and righteousness will look down from the sky. Enjoy the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

*GLORIA PATRI

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM Every Valley

John Ness Beck

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

*HYMN Emmanuel, Emmanuel

#140

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11 (p. 653); 2 Peter 3:8-15a (p. 1109) & Mark 1:1-8 (p.912)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

#14

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY There's a Song in the Air

T. Smith & Don Hustad

*DOXOLOGY

#809

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offering extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. Amen.

*HYMN Angels from the Realms of Glory verses 1, 2, 3

#174

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Announce the good news of Jesus Christ.

Prepare the way for Christ's witness to be heard.

Christ brings hope for true peace to all people.

God is patiently waiting for us to claim this gift.

Lead lives of holiness and godliness.

Enjoy treasures of heaven and earth that God offers.

God's Word brings us both comfort and challenge.

We are accepted by God and commissioned for duty.

You will be fed and blessed on life's way.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit will empower you.

We turn our hearts and minds toward God.

We rejoice that we can be servants in Christ's name. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** "Amen"

Spiritual

POSTLUDE O How Joyfully

African American

Arr. by Cindy Berry

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

PIANIST Marian Penn

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

SINGERS: Becca Nelson, Myra Bliss, Tim Delhay, Bill Handy

VMIX: Ernie Bliss **SOUND:** Rob Sanders

PRODUCERS: Ernie Bliss and Lynn Adams

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Today's anthem is "Every Valley". Isaiah 40:1, 4 *Comfort ye, my people, says your God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.* This message of hope looks forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Website: <https://upccchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven and sitteth at
the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

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Isaiah 40:1-11

p. 653

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

p. 1109

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

Mark 1:1-8

p.912

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

- 12/6** 4:00 pm - Virtual Community Christmas Concert
12/7 8:15 am Virtual Stewardship meeting
10:00 am In-person TEAM Meeting in dining room
12/9 9-11:30 am MMC partners in dining room
Noon In-person AA meeting in lower lounge

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Jan Tomlinson & Barry Jacobs
7 Todd Erickson & Grayson Kenneth Hall
8 Cheryl Drevlow & Emily Hagstrom
9 Carole Samuelson
11 Evie Roguski
12 Dylan Zifko

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Chats We are looking for volunteers to do children's chats via video for our Sunday streaming services. If you would like to volunteer, need help with this, or need to learn how to do this please email ladams1055@gmail.com or text or call Lynn at 715-209-6784.

Communications Committee In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 133

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Is. 7:14

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un -
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and
 ad - vent here; and drive a - way the shades of night, and
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -
 close the path to mis - er - y.
 all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn, 12th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; st. 5, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases

VENI EMMANUEL
 8.8.8.8.°

Emmanuel, Emmanuel 140

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel." Mt. 1:23

Unison

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is

The first system of music is written in 4/4 time. It features a unison vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note 'E', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'e', and a quarter note 'l'. This sequence is repeated. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes and a treble line of chords and single notes.

called Em-man - u - el. God with us,

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note 'E', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'e', and a quarter note 'l'. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern.

re-vealed in us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

The third system concludes the phrase. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note 'E', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'e', and a quarter note 'l'. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

LYRICS and MUSIC: Bob McGee, 1976
© 1976 C. A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.)

EMMANUEL
8.8.7.8.

Angels from the Realms of Glory 174

"We . . . have come to worship him." Mt. 2:2



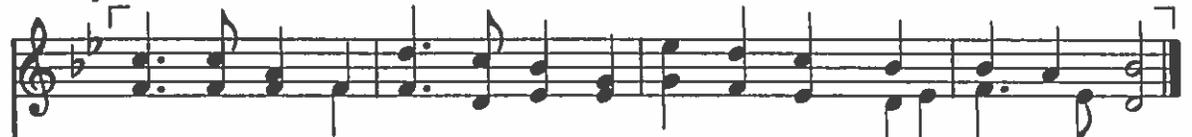
1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
5. Though an in - fant now we view him he will share his Fa - ther's throne,



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
gath - er all the na - tions to him; ev - ery knee shall then bow down.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.



WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825, alt.
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7.