

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association



**PREPARE
THE
WAY**

Advent 2020

HOPE

November 22, 2020 | 10:00am

***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community. In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.

The Rainbow Flag: We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

Order of Worship

Centering Our Hearts

Welcome

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer; as the cool air chills our bones and our world grows ever more weary, we gather in the light of Emmanuel, the God who is with us.

And yet, there is not peace on earth. So, we gather to be strengthened and sustained with the fire of Hope, as we await the coming of God's reign of Love.

the candle of HOPE is lit

In a world that hopes in wealth and power, prestige and comfort, we wait and watch for the disruptive and unexpected Hope declared by God's prophet: that in the days to come the house of the Lord shall be established as a sanctuary for all people and every nation.

Every nation shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and we shall learn war no more.

Come, wherever you are this day, and let us gather in the sanctuary of our God so that we may learn to Hope in God's ways.

We gather to make a manger in our hearts, so that we may prepare the way for the coming of God's reign in our world. Come, Lord, come.

Gathering Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vv.1-2, 6-7 (p. 5)

Advent Confession & The Lord's Prayer

"I stretch out my hand to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land" —Psalm 143:6

"Peace and wholeness to the far and the near; I will heal them." —Isaiah 57:19

What is it that your soul thirsts for in this season?

What is that for which our weary world longs, that it may rejoice?

Our Father who art 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Advent Promise

Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we wait for the Coming One with longing and expectation, the Hope of the World is already with us. So, let us light candles to shine in the darkness.

Wherever despair keeps watch, we will light candles of Hope.

Song of Preparation “If In Your Heart” (p. 4)

Scripture [Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37](#)

Sermon “Disrupted By An Unexpected Hope”

Musical Meditation

Our Common Life

See announcements at the end of the bulletin (p. 7)

Sending Hymn “Now Bless the God of Israel” (p. 6)

Benediction

Postlude *Go in Hope*

If In Your Heart



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of

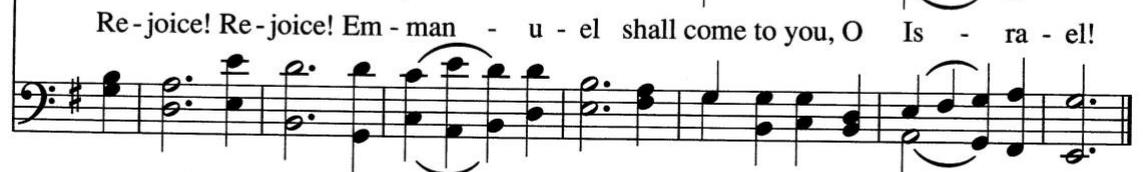


ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.

Refrain



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!



- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
(Refrain)
- 7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(Refrain)

Now Bless the God of Israel



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
3 In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,



who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.



Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

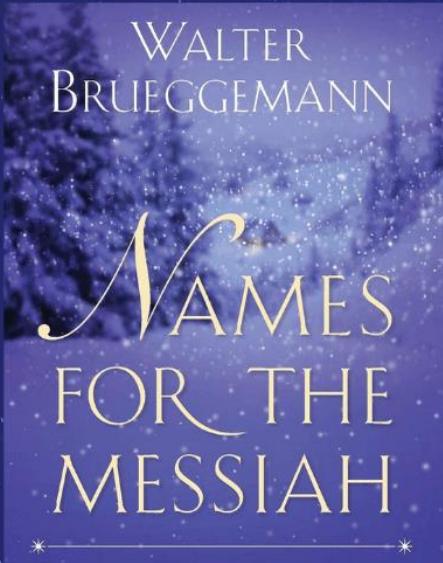


to save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Advent Opportunities

All are welcome, including those who've only joined us online!

join us for a 4 week
ADVENT STUDY



WALTER
BRUEGGEMANN

NAMES
FOR THE
MESSIAH

Wednesdays
6-7pm
Dec. 2 - 23
via Zoom

The image is a promotional graphic for an Advent study. It features a dark blue background with a subtle starry pattern. At the top, the text 'join us for a 4 week ADVENT STUDY' is displayed, with 'ADVENT STUDY' in a larger, bold, white serif font. Below this, on the left, is a book cover for 'Names for the Messiah' by Walter Brueggemann. The book cover has a purple and blue background with a starry pattern and the title in a mix of serif and script fonts. On the right, a white decorative border contains the text 'Wednesdays 6-7pm Dec. 2 - 23 via Zoom' in a white serif font.

(click the image to check out the book. Email Pastor Eric for the Zoom link if you're new and would like to participate)

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Tuesdays
9-10am
Dec. 1 - 22
via Zoom

Join us for a time
of connecting,
reflecting,
& praying

click to
Join!

Contemplative Christmas

join us around the nativity set at
church on the longest night & darkest
day of the year for a service of
candlelight, reflection & carols

*--- masks required. we will spread out across the lawn.
subject to change per public health guidelines ---*

Monday | 12/21 | 6:30-7pm