

# The Federated Church

*United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association*



**PREPARE  
THE  
WAY**

**Advent 2020**

**JOY**

**December 13, 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.

help me  
make  
a space for you

emptying myself  
to create  
a place for you

spreading the straw  
on the floor  
of my soul

in joyful  
expectation  
of your coming.

“a clearing,”  
by christine rodgers

## Order of Worship

*\*please join in reading those parts that are written in **bold***

### **Prelude & Centering Our Hearts**

### **Welcome & Passing the Peace**

### **Proclaiming the Word**          Luke 1:26-38

### **Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles**

*Adapted from Isaiah 52:7-9*

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer; as the world cries out to be released from its bondage to the forces of death and despair,

**We pause and gather for worship, so that we may be strengthened with Hope, sustained by Peace, and restored with Joy.**

*the candles of HOPE, PEACE & JOY are lit*

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim with Joy the dawning of God's shalom.

**Even as we await the redemption of our world, our hearts rejoice; together with all creation, we sing a song of praise, for the God who raises us when we are low.**

### **Gathering Hymn** "Joy to the World" (p. 6)

### **Advent Confession & The Lord's Prayer**

*"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary.' ...*

*And Mary said, 'Here am I, a servant of the Lord;*

*Let it be with me according to your word.'" ~ Luke 1:30, 38*

What is God inviting *you* to say "Yes" to? What fear is the angel inviting *you* to let go of so that, like Mary, you may risk birthing God's love into the world?

**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**

*Adapted from "I Will Light Candles this Christmas," a poem by Howard Thurman*

Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we face our fears and wait for God's Peace to be born in our midst, the Light of the World is already with us. So, let us light candles to shine in every darkness.

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

**Wherever fear crowds in, we will light candles of Peace.**

**Wherever grief overwhelms, we light candles of Joy.**

**Song of Preparation** "One Candle is Lit" vv. 1-3 (p. 7)

**Scripture** [Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46-55](#)

**Special Music** "My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord"  
*Solo by Peggy Safford*

**Sermon** "The Gospel According to Mary"

**Special Music** "Mary, Woman of the Promise"  
*Solo by Peggy Safford*

## **Our Common Life**

*See announcements at the end of the bulletin (pp. 9 & 10)*

**Sending Hymn** "My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise" (p. 8)

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** *Go in the Joy of God-with-us!*

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its  
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 won - ders of God's love,

## One Candle Is Lit

*Unison*



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,



1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.



1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.



1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.

## My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise



1. My  $\text{\textcross}$  heart sings out with joy - ful praise To God who rais - es  
2. The arm of God is strong and just To scat - ter all the  
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past At last has come to



me, Who came to me when I was low And  
proud. The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones And  
be, For God has come in pow'r to save, To



changed my des - ti - ny. The Ho - ly One, the  
van - ish like a cloud. The hun - gry all are  
set all peo - ple free. Re - mem - b'ring those who



Liv - ing God, Is al - ways full of grace To those who  
sat - is - fied; The rich are sent a - way. The poor of  
wait to see Sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day, Our Sav - ior



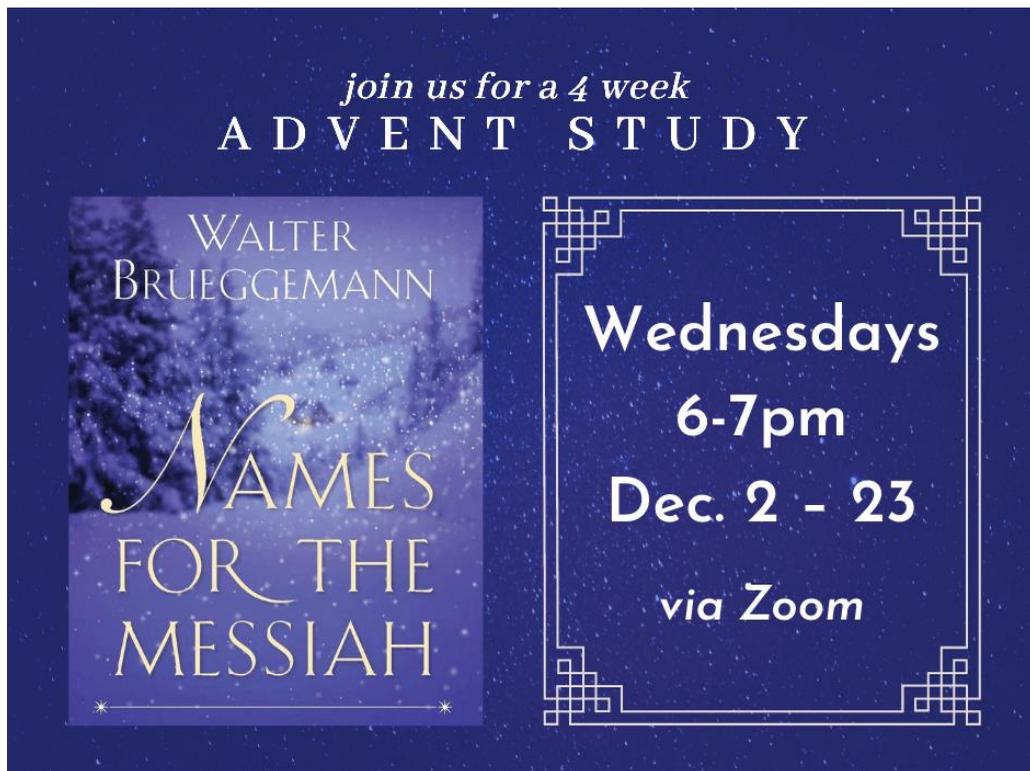
seek their Mak - er's will In ev - 'ry time and place.  
earth who suf - fer long Will wel - come God's new day.  
comes to all who weep To wipe their tears a - way.

Text: *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55; Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: KINGSFOLD, CMD; English traditional; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, © Oxford University Press

# Advent Opportunities

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

A promotional graphic for an Advent Study. The background is a dark blue field with white stars. At the top, the text "join us for a 4 week" is written in a white, italicized serif font, followed by "ADVENT STUDY" in a white, all-caps serif font. On the left is a book cover for "NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH" by Walter Brueggemann, featuring a purple and blue starry background with the title in gold. On the right is a white decorative frame containing the text "Wednesdays", "6-7pm", "Dec. 2 - 23", and "via Zoom" in white sans-serif fonts.

*join us for a 4 week*  
**ADVENT STUDY**

WALTER  
BRUEGGEMANN

*NAMES*  
FOR THE  
MESSIAH

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

*(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**