

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA
The First Sunday of Advent
Dec 3, 2023**

*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.
Indicates places to stand if able to.

The Hymnal for today is the Black Hymnal

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

When our lives are turned upside down,

We turn to you, O God.

When we are separated from all that is dear to us,

We turn to you, O God.

When chaos threatens the order that comforts us,

We turn to you, O God.

Come let us worship God, who was, is and will ever be!

HYMN #116 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (verse 1 only)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

(Reader 1): We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of God’s coming.

(Reader 2): For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. A righteous branch will spring up for David; and justice and righteousness shall prevail over all the land.

(All): ***Come Lord Jesus, come!***

HYMN #122 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ our redeemer and Lord. Amen

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Lord, in this time of Advent, we confess that we are often distracted by the season’s busyness and by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas. Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing you in our midst and keep us alert to your coming in this season of preparation.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Minister: The hope of the faithful will be revealed.

All: Come Lord Jesus, dwell with us.

(The Gloria is omitted during the Advent time of waiting)

CHORAL MUSIC

CHILDREN’S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scriptures:

Isaiah 64:1-9 (OT p.654)

The Gospel:

Mark 13:24-27 (NT p.44)

SERMON

“A Watchful Season”

HYMN # 543

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Response

***DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

Praise God, the Source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word, who came to earth.

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame.

All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

(sung to the tune of Old 100th)

COMMUNION

(see insert)

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

With gratitude for all that you provide, dear God, and to the service of the world you love so much, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, in Jesus name. Amen

***HYMN #110** “Now Bless the God of Israel”

***BENEDICTION**

Response

As we leave this quiet place, the light of Christ will guide us. As we share His truth and grace, our Lord will walk beside us. May the peace of God be with us as we live and serve in faith. May the love of Christ within us show in all we do and say. Amen. Amen

POSTLUDE

(Please remain seated for the Postlude)

PRAYER GARDEN

For Carol Ristallis as she remembers her brother John. For the Darling's as they remember Bruce Darling and Robert Goscenski. Healing for Allen Darling. For Paul and Coco Edberg and for Curt and Nancy Conner in life transitions. Healing for Harry Williston. For Brenda Hefflon, Cindy Wilson, Steve Burns, Ann Marie, Kaz Lynch, Jenny Ahearn. For the people of the Ukraine. For the people of Israel and Gaza and for World Peace in this season of Advent.