

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,  
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA  
December 4, 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.*  
*\*Indicates the people shall stand if able.*

The Hymnal for today is the Black Hymnal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL

SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are surely coming when God's promises shall be fulfilled.

*When our love for one another  
and for all God's children will increase.*

The days are surely coming when God's promises will come true.

*When God will strengthen our hearts in humility and holiness.*

The days are surely coming when God's promises are realized in us.

*When we will walk the paths of faithfulness and steadfast love.*

HYMN #116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1&6 only)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Reader 1: *On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of hope,  
to begin our time of waiting in hope for the coming of the  
Christ child.*

Reader 2: *This morning we light the candle of love as a symbol of  
God's love for us and our love for one another.*

Reader 3: *For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and  
renews us with love. God exults over us with singing  
and turns our shame to praise.*

Congregation: *Come Lord Jesus, Come!*

\*HYMN #110 "Now Bless the God of Israel"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*God of signs and wonders, we gather in need of your presence in our  
lives. Make straight the pathways of your love through our hearts*

*this day, so that we may better love you and love each other. Make  
our love shine forth in a world hungry to know your love. Through  
Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forevermore.  
Amen*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*God of all, you love each one of us and grieve the way we hurt each  
other. Forgive us for our narrowness and prejudices, our quick  
tempers and stingy grace, our attention to the faults of others and  
blindness to our own. Help us live together in peace, loving and  
caring for one another as you love and care for us. We ask this in  
Christ's name. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: Rejoice! For God has forgiven us. By grace we are freed to  
embrace the world with loving hearts!

All: *Thanks be to God!*

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrew Scripture:

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Gospel:

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

"Wolf and Lamb"

HYMN #329

"Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts"

Prayers of Intercession

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, 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, and the power and the glory forever Amen.*

Prayer Response

CHORAL ANTHEM

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.* (sung to the tune of Old 100<sup>th</sup>)

**\*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*

**THE COMMUNION** (see insert)

**\*HYMN #117** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Response** (To the tune of Edelweiss)

*May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever, grant you peace, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor; lift up your eyes and then see his face, and his grace forever; May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The deacon this morning is Leslie Brown
- Join us downstairs for fellowship and refreshments after worship.
- Order Christmas flowers through Janet Andrews
- Rev. Koyama's office hours are 9:30-12:30am Tuesday. 808-282-6711.

**PRAYER GARDEN**