

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,  
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA

December 5, 2021 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

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

(Reader 1): We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

(Reader 2): 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.

(All): *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 you grieve the way we hurt each other. Forgive us for our narrowness and prejudice, 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 all. We ask in Christ's name. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: Rejoice! For God has forgiven us. By grace we are freed to walk the path of life everlasting.

*All: Thanks be to God!*

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrew Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4

The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

"Prepare the Way"

HYMN #451

"Be Now My Vision"

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**

*Depart in peace to do God's will; walk ever in the light. For Christ is with us evermore to guide us day and night.*

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The deacon this morning is Janet Andrews.
- Join us downstairs for fellowship and refreshments after worship.
- Christmas Flowers order through Deacon Beth Marshall 413-218-8190.
- Rev. Koyama's office hours are Tuesday am. Call ahead 808-282-6711.