

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA
The Second Sunday of Advent
Dec 8, 2024**

Bold italics indicate the work of the people.

**Indicates places to stand if able to.*

The Hymnal for today is the Red Hymnal

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are surely coming when God's promises shall be fulfilled;
when love between 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&2 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 #111 "Of The Father's Love Begotten"

***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, so that we may better love and magnify you. Shine forth
through us upon a world that hungers for 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 care for each as you love and
care for us. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Minister: God forgives all who approach with contrite hearts.
All: ***Thanks be to God!***

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrew Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4 (OT p.841)
Epistle Reading: Philippians 1:3-11 (NT p.173)
The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 (NT p.52)

SERMON

"Make Straight God's Path"

HYMN #101 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Intercessory Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

***DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

Praise God, the Source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word, who comes to earth.

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame.

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

(sung to the tune of Old 100th)

***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 #114** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

***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