

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA
December 11, 2022 3rd Sunday in Advent
Bold italics indicate the work of the people.
**Indicates the people shall stand if able.*

The Hymnal for today is the Red Hymnal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL

A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the Lord

For he is coming to judge the world with righteousness,

And to lead the peoples in truth.

(From Psalm 96)

HYMN #110 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1-3 only)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

(Reader 1): On the first Sunday in Advent, we lit a candle of hope for the coming of the Christ child. And last Sunday, we lit a candle for love, to symbolize God's love for us and our love for one another.

(Reader 2): Now we add the candle of Joy, to express the joy to be found in God's reign on earth.

(Reader 3): For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in God's justice and mercy, For God is faithful to all generations.

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Amen

*PRAYER OF YEARNING

Emmanuel, be with us in our times of need. Grant us hope when despair overwhelms us. Grant us healing and mercy, when illness and injury sap our strength. Grant us life and growth, when death and stagnation threaten us. Grant us patience and perseverance, when we grow weary, as we await your coming reign.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: A child will be born to us, whose forgiveness will make us whole and whose reign shall be of joy everlasting.

All: Thanks be to God!

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Hebrew Scripture:

Isaiah 35:1-10

NT Epistle

James 5:7-10

The Gospel:

Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

"Let Heaven and Nature Sing"

HYMN #121

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

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

*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 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 #119 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

*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.
- Diaconate Meeting follows fellowship time.
- Order Christmas flowers through Janet Andrews
- Next Tuesday: Soup Lunch 11:30-12:30pm
- The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Dec 24th at 6:30 pm .
- Sunday, Dec 25th Worship will **not** be held on Christmas Day.
- Rev. Koyama’s office hours are 9:30-12:30am Tuesday. 808-282-6711.

PRAYER GARDEN