

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA
December 24, 2023 4th Sunday in Advent
Bold italics indicate the work of the people.
**Indicates the people shall stand if able.*

The Hymnal for this morning is the Black Hymnal.

PRELUDE & PROCESSIONAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS
A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Comfort my people, says the Lord.

God will break the chains of the bound.

Comfort my people, says the Lord.

Speak unto them words of peace.

God will cast out the fears of the troubled

And lift up the eyes of those without hope.

The peace of God shall reign for evermore!

*HYMN #116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1,6&7)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

(Reader 1): *The candles for hope, love and joy have been lit. Today we light the fourth candle as a symbol for the peace that only God can bring.*

(Reader 2): *For God will lead us to a place under the stars where we will drink deeply of God's righteousness.*

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

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, by the light of your prophets illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call. Fill us with a full measure of your Peace; making straight the path that leads to the manger side. In the name of Christ who comes, we pray. Amen

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we are often overtaken by the belief that there will be no end to the rule of the powerful and the hard-hearted. Fill us with the faith and vision of Mary, so that we too may be fully present and a part of the birth and everlasting reign of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice, God's reign of peace draws near!

All: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL READINGS

Luke 1:26-38 "The Annunciation" (NT p.49)

Luke 1:46-55 "The Magnificat" (NT p.49)

SERMON

"Mary's Peace"

HYMN #438

"It Is Well With My Soul"

PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

(see insert)

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, 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)

***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 #127 “Lo How A Rose E’er Blooming” (Verses in English)

***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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The deacon this morning is LuAnn Herrick
- The Candlelight Service is tonight at 6:30pm
- Rev. Koyama will **not** have office hours this coming Tuesday. He can be reached for Pastoral Emergencies at 808-282-6711.

PRAYER GARDEN