

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



Advent 2020

PEACE

December 6, 2020 | 10:00am

***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community. In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.

The Rainbow Flag: We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

help me
make
a space for you

emptying myself
to create
a place for you

spreading the straw
on the floor
of my soul

in joyful
expectation
of your coming.

“a clearing,”
by christine rodgers

Order of Worship

Prelude & Centering Our Hearts

Welcome & Passing the Peace

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles

Adapted from the Prophets Isaiah & Jeremiah

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God! Awake, awake from your mourning; put on your strength, O People of God!

In a world that declares “Peace, Peace,” when there is no peace, we gather to be strengthened with God’s Hope and comforted by God’s Peace as we continue our Advent journey.

the candles of HOPE & PEACE are lit

We gather to hear the prophet proclaiming: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim God’s peace!”

“The wolf shall live with the lamb; the calf and the lion will lie down together; and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy on all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be filled with My Peace.”

Come, let us lift up our voices with praise as we prepare the way in our hearts and our world, for the Promised One is coming!

Gathering Hymn “Comfort, Comfort O My People” (p. 6)

Advent Confession & The Lord’s Prayer

*“In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” ~ Isaiah 40:3*

What do you need to let go of, smooth over, make clear in order to prepare a way for God to be born into the manger of your heart?

Our Father who art 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. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Advent Promise

Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we wait for the Coming One with longing and expectation, the Hope of the World is already with us. So, let us light candles to shine in the darkness.

Wherever despair keeps watch, we will light candles of Hope.

Wherever fear crowds in, we will light candles of Peace.

Song of Preparation “One Candle is Lit” vv. 1 & 2 (p. 7)

Scripture [Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8](#)

Sermon “In the Wilderness, Prepare the Way”

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sung Response “Mary, Woman of the Promise” (*to the tune of Servant Song*)

*Mary, woman of the promise;
Vessel of your people’s dreams:
Through your open, willing spirit
Waters of God’s goodness streamed.*

*Mary, model of compassion;
Wounded by your offspring’s pain:
When our hearts are torn by sorrow,
Teach us how to love again.*

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Common Life

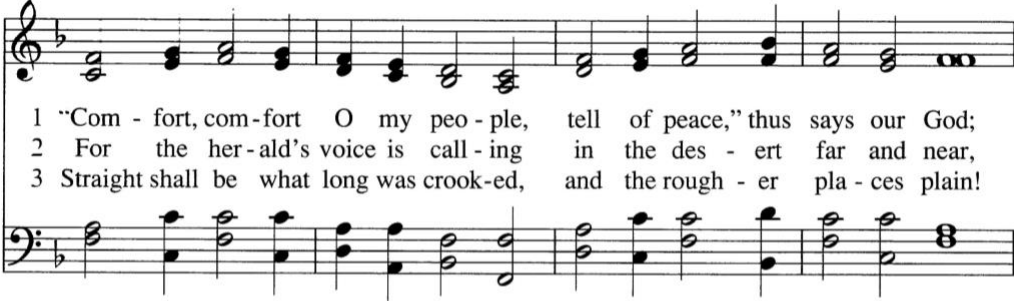
See announcements at the end of the bulletin (pp. 8 & 9)

Sending Hymn “Come, O Long Expected Jesus” (p. 7)

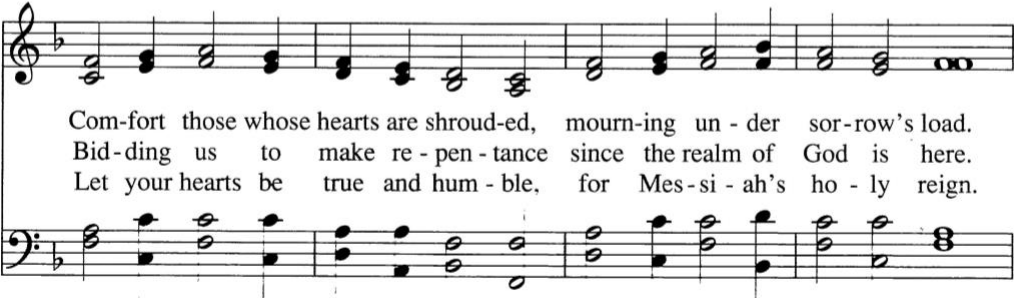
Benediction

Postlude *Go in Peace*

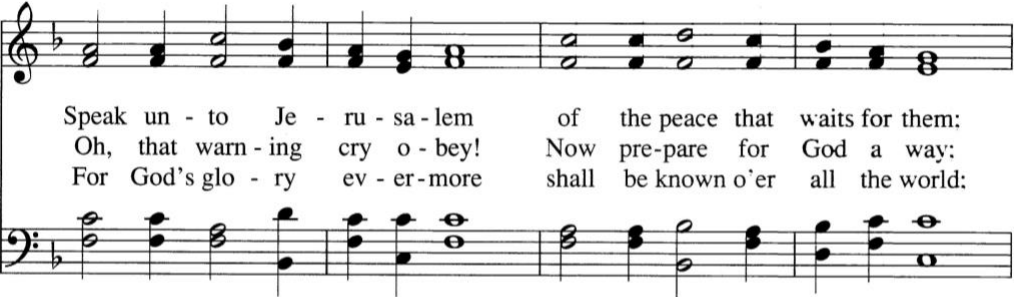
Comfort, Comfort O My People



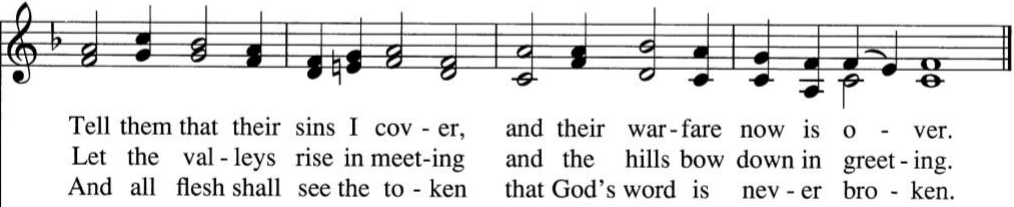
1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them:
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world:



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

One Candle Is Lit

Unison



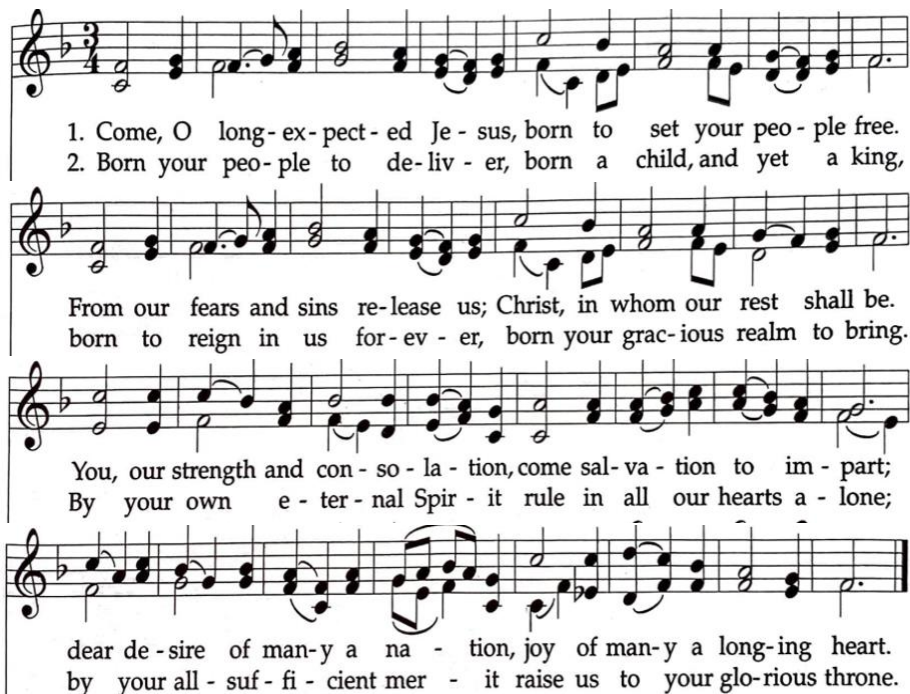
1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare

1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.

1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.

1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Come, O Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je - sus, born to set your peo - ple free.
2. Born your peo - ple to de-liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for-ev - er, born your grac-i-ous realm to bring.

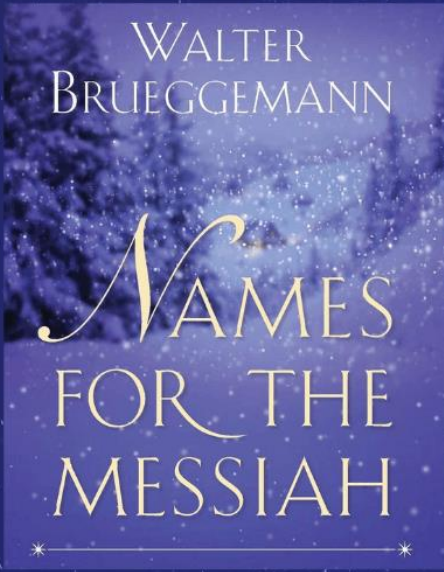
You, our strength and con - so - la - tion, come sal - va - tion to im - part;
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of man - y a na - tion, joy of man - y a long - ing heart.
by your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to your glo - ri - ous throne.

Advent Opportunities

All are welcome, including those who've only joined us online!

join us for a 4 week
A D V E N T S T U D Y



WALTER
BRUEGGEMANN

NAMES
FOR THE
MESSIAH

Wednesdays
6-7pm
Dec. 2 - 23
via Zoom

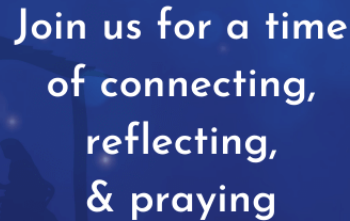
(click the image to check out the book. Email Pastor Eric for the Zoom link if you're new and would like to participate)



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



Tuesdays
9-10am
Dec. 1 - 22
via Zoom




Join us for a time
of connecting,
reflecting,
& praying



click to
join!

Contemplative Christmas



**join us around the nativity set at
church on the longest night & darkest
day of the year for a service of
candlelight, reflection & carols**

*--- masks required. we will spread out across the lawn.
subject to change per public health guidelines ---*

Monday | 12/21 | 6:30-7pm