

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



LOVE

December 20, 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 Psalm 85

Ever-Coming One, draw near amidst our darkening days.

As we watch and wait for your coming Light, O God, we gather to be strengthened with Hope, sustained by Peace, restored with Joy, and Inspired by Love.

the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE are lit

Giver of Life, our weary world longs to rejoice. Restore our foundations. Repair the fractures in our collective body. Cause your goodness to rain upon the earth like springs rains upon seeded soil.

Light of the World, Breath of Heaven: glow with the fire of your Love in every darkness, so that justice and peace may finally kiss. Cause faithfulness to spring forth from the earth, and healing to shine down from the sky. Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Gathering Hymn “Christ Be Our Light” vv. 1, 2 & 5 (p. 6)

Advent Confession & The Lord’s Prayer

“Give thanks to God who led us through the wilderness, who remembered us in our low estate, and who rescued us, for his steadfast love endures forever.” ~ Psalm 136

During present struggles, Israel recalled God’s faithfulness in their past, and with past generations. In what wildernesses or times of “low estate” have you experienced God’s steadfast love and abiding presence? What of previous generations? May you know even now this love which claims us forever.

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.

Sung Response “O Little Town of Bethlehem” verse 3

***O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel***

Advent Promise

Adapted from “I Will Light Candles this Christmas,” a poem by Howard Thurman
Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we wait for God’s Love to be born in our midst, the Light of the World is already with us. So, let us light candles to shine in every darkness.

**Wherever despair keeps watch, we will light candles of Hope.
Wherever fear crowds in, we will light candles of Peace.
Wherever grief overwhelms, we will light candles of Joy.
To inspire all our living, we will light candles of Love.**

Song of Preparation “One Candle is Lit” vv. 1-4 (p. 7)

Scripture [Isaiah 52:7-10](#)
[John 1:6-8, 19-28](#)

Sermon “Then Who Are You?!”

Musical Meditation

Our Common Life

See announcements at the end of the bulletin (p. 9)

Sending Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vv. 1, 2, 6, 7 (p.8)

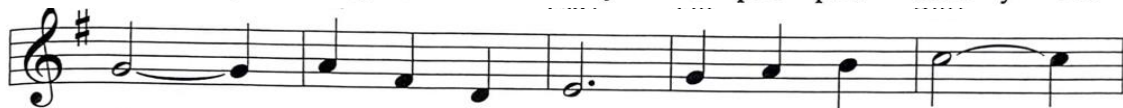
Benediction

Postlude *Go in the Peace, Hope, Joy and Love of God!*

Christ Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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
3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,



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.
3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,



1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.



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.
3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel


Unison



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of



ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
(*Refrain*)

7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(*Refrain*)

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

VIRTUAL

Christmas

E V E

CANDLELIGHT
* SERVICE *

DECEMBER 24 | 7PM |

