

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



ADVENT I: HOPE

December 5, 2021 | 10:00am

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

Welcome & Passing the Peace

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles

Adapted from the Prophets Isaiah & Jeremiah

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God!

Awaken from your mourning; put on your strength, O Judah!

In a world that declares “Peace, Peace” when there is no peace,

We gather to be comforted by God’s Peace,

And strengthened by God’s Hope, as we continue our Advent journey.

the candles of HOPE & PEACE are lit

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

“The Day is coming when the wolf will live with the lamb;

The calf and the lion will lie down together; and a child shall lead them.

None will hurt or destroy another on all my holy mountain,

For the earth will be filled with My Peace.”

Come, Advent People, let us give voice to our longing and hope.

We gather to prepare the way in our hearts and in our world

To house the Holy Presence of God.

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

Advent Prayer of Repentance: PEACE

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; in the desert make a highway for our God.”

~ Isaiah 40:3

What are the desolate places within yourself?

What word of Hope or Peace is your soul longing to welcome from God?

The Lord’s Prayer

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 every darkness.

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

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

Song of Preparation “If In Your Heart” (p. 7)

Scripture [Baruch 5:1-9 & Luke 1:68-71, 76-79; 3:1-14, 18-20](#)

Sermon “*Preparing the Way for God the Refugee*”

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sung Response “Mary, Woman of the Promise” (*Tune: 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 Shared Life & Offering

Announcements

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

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

Benediction *Go held in the Peace of Emmanu-el: God-With-Us*

Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

Those serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin
Liturgist: Sally Stevens | **Ushers:** *Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen & Bev Whildin.*

*Those scheduled to usher next Sunday, **December 12th**, are: Roger Jacobson, Gip Seaver, Judy Winter & Ruth Olle.*

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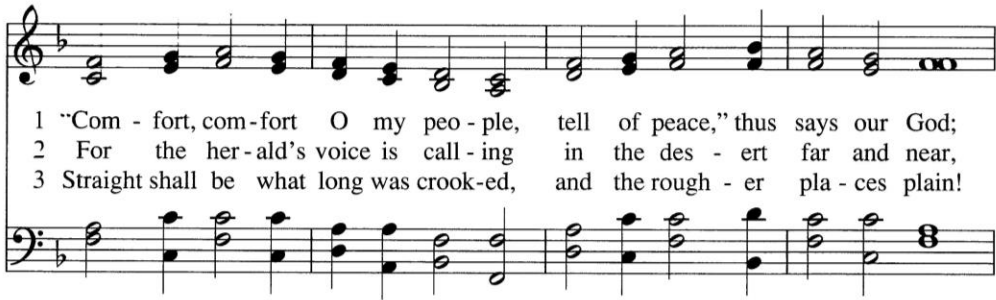
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

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:

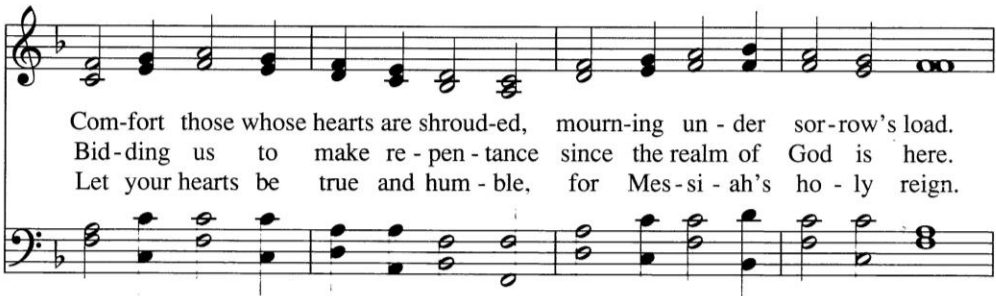
Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, 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+ people to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

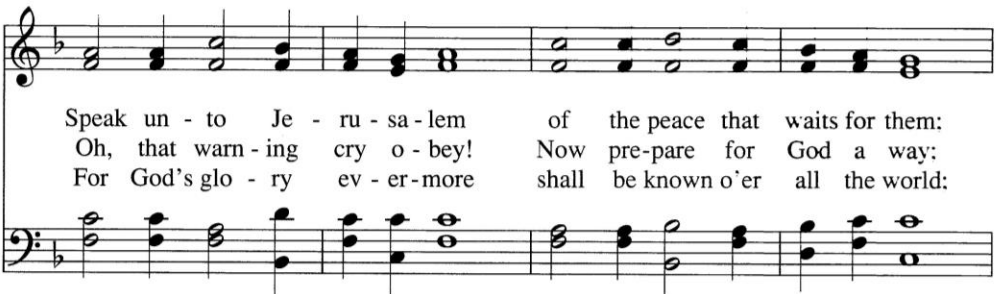
Comfort, Comfort O My People



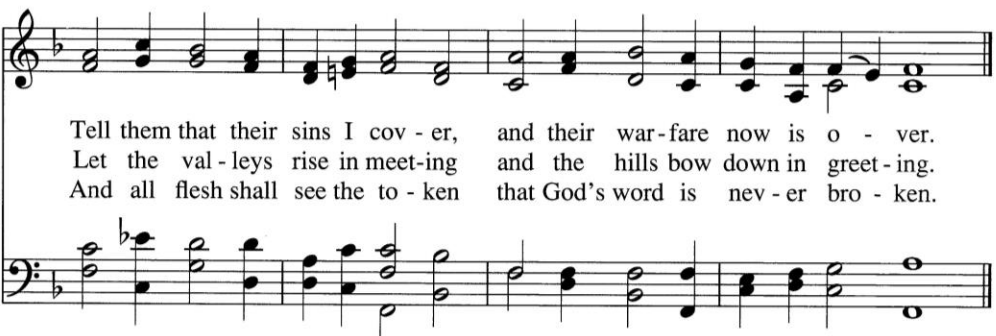
1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



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.

If In Your Heart



If__ in your heart you make a man - ger for his birth, then__

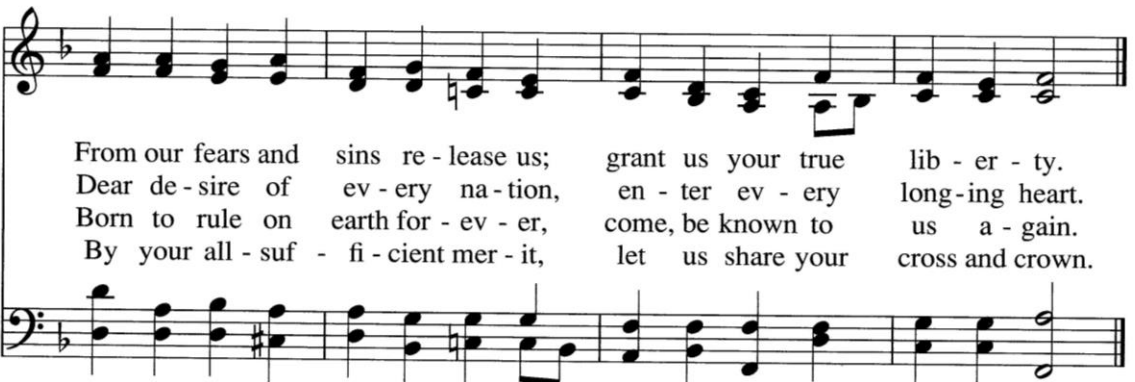


God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth. If__ earth.__

Come, O Long Expected Jesus



1 Come, O long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Advent Opportunities

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

Christmas Toy Drive

Federated Church is partnering with The Salvation Army in DeKalb County to collect toys for children 0-18. These toys will be given out by The Salvation Army at their annual Christmas children's gift distribution in mid-December. **Toys may be dropped off at The Federated Church from November 14 to December 8 at the main entrances.** *Do not wrap the gifts.*

The drive is sponsored by the Board of Deacons. If you have any questions, please contact Paula von Ende at pvonend@yahoo.com.

Annual Federated Preschool Cookie & Candy Sale Fundraiser

Friday, Dec. 10th, 10:30am - 3pm

The Federated Preschool is gearing up for their Annual Cookie and Candy Sale! If you're interested in making homemade cookies or candies to donate to the sale, *bring them to the preschool on Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 9th during regular school hours or first thing on Friday, December 10th!*

For more information, contact Preschool Director, Bobbi Clough, at 815-764-9473



Make Room

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Sunday, Dec. 5th

AFTER WORSHIP

Join us as we journey to Bethlehem for a conversation with Pastor Eric's friend, Usama, a Palestinian Christian who lives just a few houses from where Jesus was born! Our conversation with Usama will be followed by an intergenerational Advent craft workshop you don't wanna miss! Join us for some Advent reflection and holiday fun!



Make Room

CHRISTMAS IN A REFUGEE CAMP

Sunday, Dec. 12th

AFTER WORSHIP

Remembering that the Holy Family were forced to become refugees shortly after Jesus' birth, representatives from Exodus World Service, a refugee resettlement agency, will lead us through an immersive experience to better understand what this journey is like.

This is geared toward both youth and adults; all are welcome and encouraged to participate as we hear experience the Christmas story in new and profound ways!

“Welcoming Any, Loving All”

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:
the United Church of Christ & the Unitarian Universalist Association*



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