

December 22, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE                    *Preludio*                    Giovanni Bolzoni  
   *Sicilienne*                    David Evan Thomas

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC        *Sing with Joy*            Hermann Schroeder

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this weary world,  
**we sing of joy.**  
In this fragile world,  
**we lift each other up.**  
In this beautiful world,  
**we look for God.**  
In this tender world,  
**we hold onto hope.**  
This is the invitation of faith.  
**So in this time of worship,**  
may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us  
God.  
**With hope in our hearts, amen!**

+HYMN    Come Thou Long Expected Jesus    NCH # 122

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts**

**to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.**

QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE                    Madison Torre

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

ANTHEM                    *Listen to the Story*                    Pepper Choplin  
   Chancel Choir

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55

THE MESSAGE

HYMN                    O Come, O Come Emmanuel                    (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY        *I Hear the Prophet Callin'*                    Pepper Choplin  
   Chancel Choir

+DOXOLOGY        (melody: In the Bleak Midwinter)  
**Praise the one creator, praise the living Christ.  
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.  
Praise when you are weary, praise and times of joy.  
Praise my soul, with all your strength and your heart and  
voice.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN                    O How Shall I Receive You?                    NCH # 102

RESPONSE                    *Advent Benediction Response*  
   Shepardic Trad./arr. J. Gross

POSTLUDE                    *Wachet auf*                    A.D. Miller

**Announcements**

**Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford!** If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

**The flowers** on the altar are given in honor of my brother, Michael Reed, on his birthday, by Leslie Spiars.

**Serving the church today:** Lois Doherty, Steve and Cathy Knight, Bruce and Katherine Ollodart, Ushers. Tony Annunziata, Liturgist. Russ Hinckley, Chimes. Mudi, Brian, Zoe, and Noah Kenney, Candlelighters.

**Join us for a Hot Chocolate Bar and for Apple Cider Donuts** today following worship.

**Our Annual Service of Lessons and Carols** will be at Ashlar Village this afternoon at 2:00. Come for the special music, Christmas Carols, Christmas stories, and light.

**Christmas Eve** we will worship at 5 and 9 pm. The 5 PM service is a family service with carols and a pageant. The 9 PM service will include Carols, Candlelight, and Communion. Invite your family and friends!

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music  
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager  
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton/  
Ms. Maddie Torre, Coordinator Sunday School  
and Youth Ministries