



Christ Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
*Creating Beloved Community*

**First Sunday of Advent**

9:55 a.m.

December 3, 2017

Welcome to worship! As you settle in for worship, please feel free to light a candle of prayer in the chapel area (*right side of sanctuary*). The children will be with us throughout the service. There is nursery care available throughout the service, and a crying room for those who become inconsolable.

RINGING OF THE CHIMES Sylvia Berry, organist

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Adam Mitchell, Moderator

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' No. 119

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Hope

Leader: Holy One, the season of hope is upon us:

**All: hope for the future; hope for the promise; hope for all that is to be**

Leader; Receive our worship this day, and as we light our first candle we pray that we may live and worship you in hope. Amen.

INTROIT 'He Never Failed Me Yet' Robert Ray

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

KYRIE 'Prepare the Way of the Lord' No. 121

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*RECEIVING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

(*by handshake, embrace, or with hands folded*)

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

WITNESS

BLESSING OF THE BABY QUILTS

THE STORY IN ANTHEM FORM      Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego  
with the Youth Choir, directed by Lisa Sparling      Bill Greer, arr. Jos. Martin

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! There's a story in the Bible 'bout three brave men; If you heard it before, you need to hear it again. So, listen up people, 'cause I want you to know, 'bout Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

King Nebuchadnezzar made an idol of gold. He said, "Listen here, people, better do what you're told. You better bow down when the music is played, or it's to the fiery furnace if you disobey."

So the very first time that the music was played, all the people bowed down, Oh, they were very afraid. But three brave men stood tall and said, "No!" That was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!

Well, the king was so mad when the word go around; He couldn't believe that they didn't bow down. They stood their ground and shouted, "We're not afraid, for we worship our God and not the idol you made."

So the king had them thrown in the furnace of fire. And he turned it way up; the flames went higher and higher. As everyone watched, God sent a surprise, for instead of three men there were four inside! Then someone said, "Look, I see an angel in there, sent from heaven above; God has answered their prayer." And the king cried out, "Not in all of my days has there ever been a God so worthy of praise."

Let us worship the true God. Let us give God all our praise. And let us not forget these three heroes of the faith! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

SERMON

Rev. Patricia Hayes

MORNING PRAYERS

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

HONORING OUR LONG TIME MEMBERS

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

OFFERTORY 'Impromptu in G flat major Op 90 No3' Franz Schubert

\*DOXOLOGY 'Emmanuel, Emmanuel' No. 134  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*SONG 'Emmanuel, Emmanuel' No. 134  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God...

Therefore, with all who love and serve you in heaven and on earth, we raise our voices:

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "San - to, san - to, san - to, ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My". The second system continues the lyrics: "co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or! heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!". The piano accompaniment features chords and a steady bass line.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*(We will pass the communion plates in the pews. Our table is open to all. Please pass the tray to the center of the pew. The person in the center may take a piece of the bread and dip it in the grape juice. Then take the tray and serve the next person, returning the tray to the deacon. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small dish for those who need them)*

## COMMUNION MUSIC 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence' Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth From the realms of endless day, Comes the powers of hell tovanquish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You have given yourself to us, Lord.

**Now we give ourselves to others.**

Your love has made us a new people.

**As a people of love we will serve you with joy.**

Your glory has filled our hearts.

**Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.**

\*HYMN        'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'    (*verse one only*)        No. 119

\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*(please be seated for the closing music)*

CLOSING MUSIC        'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'        Robert Vandall

### **Participating in today's service are:**

Rev. Patricia Hayes, Senior Minister

Erin Reardon, Minister of Visitation

Lisa Hulbert, Director of Christian Education

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Organist

David Wilcox, Sign Language

Loren Stott, Sign Language

## **THIS AFTERNOON YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ADVENT WORKSHOP**

This is a family event (*and everyone may attend*) where crafts and projects are available, there will be soup and sandwiches, and the afternoon will end with the lighting of the outdoor Christmas lights.

### **WEDNESDAY DINNER: 6:00PM**

This week we will be having our Boneless Pork Roast, Buttery Garlic Noodles and Broccoli with a salad bar. Sign up at the information counter. All invited!! Cost \$5.00 or pay what you can.

**YOUNG AT HEART** Christmas lunch Wednesday at 12:00pm.

Lunch by Gayle Hulbert

Carol sing led by Eleanor Calvin

Gift exchange by All ~ Bring a \$5 - \$10 gift

**THE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** will regather, and invites anyone in grief to come to a conversation about grief and the holidays on Saturday, December 9th from 9-11 am at the church. Coffee will be ready – hope to see you there!

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**We pray for those who cannot be with us at church:**

Ramona Adler, Jane Benson, Aida Bruns, Lois Cyr, Nancy Davis, Carole Duhamel, Mary Geraigery, Janet Hodnett, Ruth Melanson, Mildred Miele, Geneva Prince, Barbara Smith, Don Squires and Viola Szydlowski.

**And for those who are ill or need extra prayer:**

Brian Benson (nephew of Sandra Hill), Susan Berry (niece of Ruth Poole), Elaine Botka (aunt of John Hagberg), Richard Bowman, Nancy Campbell (niece of Donna & Alton Hefler), Jean Cappiello, Luke Creedon, Lillie Dias, Denise Duhamel (granddaughter of Carole), Mark Duhamel (Carole's son), Wayne Ferguson (brother of Brian Young-Ferguson), Nancy Fisher (Gini Hathaway's sister-in-law), Jennifer Hill (Shirley Strangis' daughter), Gayle Hulbert, Rebecca Lacourse, Wayne and Marilyn Legge, Carl Manoogian (George's son), Nicky McNally (Shirley Strangis' grandson), Kathy North, Joanne Oliveira (stepmom of Deana), Zachary Ponds (Friend of Jan Howard), Michelle Pursell, Fernanda Quimby, Diane Quin (mother of Steve Kivlehan, friend of Loren Stott), Carol Ranney (sister of Fred Hayes), David Ritchie (nephew of Donna Hefler), Linda Ritchie (sister of Donna Hefler), William Rotondi (Uncle of Mary Poole), Danny Ray Simpson (brother-in-law of Barbara Moody).

**For those in the military, especially:**

Scott Allen, Kathleen Crooker, Michael J. Harris, Andrew Johnson, Alex (Pasha) Ozelius, Robbie Sinesi, Derek Stanley and Bradford Townsend.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun. 12/3**

9:55am Worship  
11:20am Youth Choir  
11:20am Youth Ringers  
12:00pm Advent Workshop

**Mon. 12/4**

Office Closed  
5:30pm Music Committee Meeting

**Tue. 12/5**

7:00pm CE Committee Meeting

**Wed. 12/6**

10:00am Bible Study  
12:00pm Young At Heart  
6:00pm Dinner  
6:30pm Adult Bell Ringers  
7:15pm Adult Choir

**Thur. 12/7**

7:00pm Deacons Committee Meeting  
7:00pm Vitality Committee Meeting

**Fri. 12/8**

6:00pm New Members Dinner at the Parsonage

**Sat. 12/9**

9:00-11:00am Grief Support Group

**Sun. 12/10**

9:55am Worship  
11:20am Youth Choir  
11:20am Youth Ringers  
11:50am Confirmation Lunch

## Poinsettia Orders

Please place your poinsettia order by December 10th. The plants will be on the chancel on December 17th. Please indicate if you wish to take your own plant or have it delivered to a shut-in. Below is the order form, please fill out and return to the Church Office. You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

Please complete this form and return it to the church with \$15 per poinsettia:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plants for display at church on December 17th.

After service on the 17th I would like to:

\_\_\_\_ take my plant home/deliver the plant myself to a church member.

\_\_\_\_ have my plant delivered to a homebound church member.



The names I would like listed on the memorial list are **(4 names per plant)**:

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**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Welcomel**