



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



December 1, 2024

10:00 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** 'Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates'

No. 129

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

People: We wait in hope for the Lord; our souls wait for His promise to be fulfilled.

Leader: In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People: Our hope is in the coming of the Lord, who will bring light into the darkness and peace to the world.

Leader: Let us worship God in hope, trusting in the fulfillment of God's promises.

People: We lift our hearts in joy and expectation, for our Redeemer is near!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Kaptimer Family

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** 'One Candle Is Lit' (vs. 1)

No. 128

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE *(in unison)*

Gracious and Loving God, as we gather in this sacred season of Advent, we pause to reflect on the hope that is kindled within us. Help us to embrace the light of Christ that shines in the darkness. Inspire us to be agents of change in our communities and in our world. As we journey together toward the celebration of Christ's birth, let each step be a reflection of your transformative power in our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our hope and our salvation. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Rev. Ray Medeiros

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

SERMON

The Days Are Surely Coming

Rev. Ray Medeiros

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

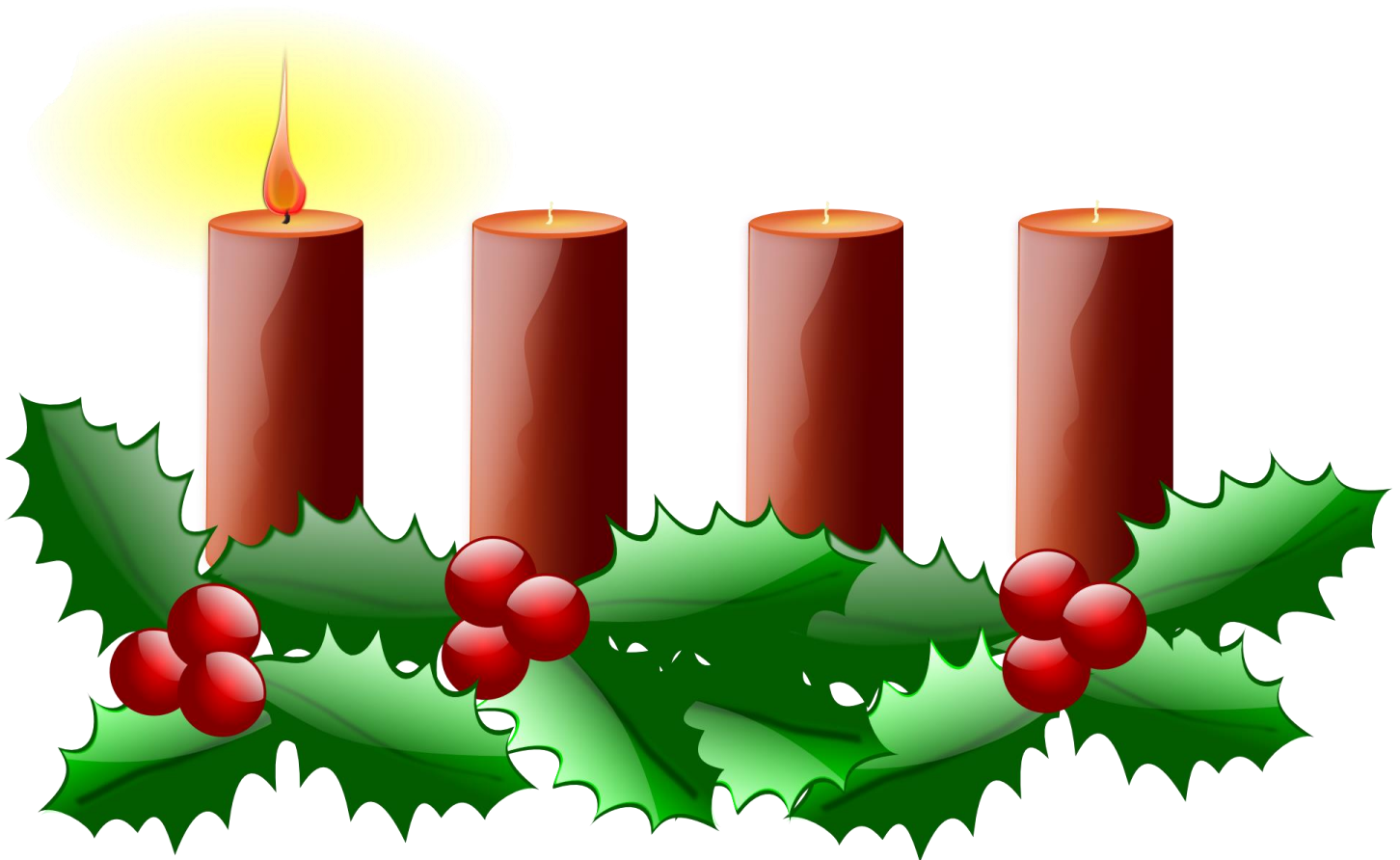
Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY	'Prepare to Receive Him'	(J. S. Bach/Currie)
*OFFERTORY RESPONSE	'Now the Green Blade Rises' (vs. 4)	No. 230
PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
*RECESSIONAL HYMN	'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'	No. 119
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	'From Heaven Above to Earth I Come'	(Pachelbel)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Ray Medeiros, Guest Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
Laura Ramos, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director



Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates 129

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous
 2. Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple,
 3. Re-deem-er, come! We o-pen wide our hearts to you; here,
 4. So come, our Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-ble

Rul-er waits! The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing
 set a-part from earth-ly use for heav-en's em-
 Christ, a-bide! Let us your in-ner pres-ence
 life be-gin; your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us

near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.
 ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 feel, your grace and love in us re-veal.
 on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be-won.

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.

MUSIC: *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

Text revisions courtesy of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries/The Pilgrim Press

TRURO
LM

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,
 5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,

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,
 5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.

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.
 5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.

WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988
 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

CRADLE SONG
 11 11.11 11

Words © 1995 Chalice Press

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.
 5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

130 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Cm Fm Eb Ab Db Eb Fm Cm Fm

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My
 2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3. From age to age, to all who fear, such
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

Db Eb7 Ab Bbm Ab Ab Db Eb Ab

1. heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 2. ho - ly is her name. All peo - ple wil de -
 3. mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 4. notes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 5. ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

Eb7 Bbm Ab Db Eb Bbm Eb Fm

1. low - li - ness in man - y mar - ve - lous ways.
 2. clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 3. far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 4. sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 5. prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Guitar and keyboard should not sound together.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813;
 harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

MORNING SONG
 CM

Words © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters; harm. © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House

♩=88-96

Now the Green Blade Rises 230

Unison

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid the love by ha - tred slain,
 3. Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that Je - sus would not wake a - gain,
 who that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, the ris - en Christ is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

WORDS: John M. C. Crum, 1928
 MUSIC: French carol


NOËL NOUVELET
 11 10.10 11

Words © 1928 Oxford University Press



♩=72-80

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel


Unison




1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;



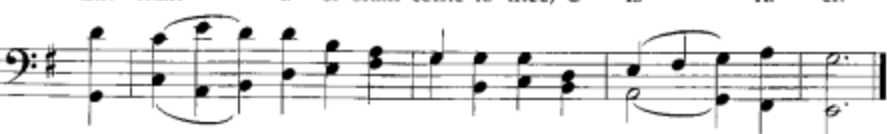
Refrain Harmony



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851;
 st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sioane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM