



Advent

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 9, 2018
9 am
Grace Hall, North Campus

Welcome to First Community Church

We are a Christian church, affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ denominations. We welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith, and those who are searching.

Christian worship has been offered by First Community Church, Columbus, Ohio, for over 108 years. By worshipping with us today, you become a part of that living tradition. Our regular worshippers and church members, supported by members of the staff and a large number of volunteers, make up our church community. We are committed to diversity, equal opportunities and personal and spiritual development of all who work and worship here, because, as our church's belief statement says, "we strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ while recognizing other pathways to the divine."

Thank you for being with us for worship today. If you desire a pastoral call, please indicate this on the welcome pad. If you are in need of prayer, please fill out a prayer card located in the Welcome pad booklet and place it in the offering plate. Our prayers go with you as you return to your home.

(The paper we use for the order of service is recycled. You are welcome to take it away with you, but, if you would like us to recycle it for you, please place it in one of the bins at an exit, as we are also committed to our environment, God's Creation.)

The Service of the Word and Sacrament

ADVENT II



For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.

—Frederick Buechner (b 1926)

THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

*For the quiet time during the prelude, we invite you to be in prayer.
As you leave the service of worship, join in rejoicing with your neighbor.*

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

Variation on the Advent Hymn, "Picardy" Paul Manz (1919-2009)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God approaches; may our worship today prepare the way to welcome the Christ Child.

All: For this Child will become the one who reveals the glory of God for all people.

Leader: Let us find the places of fear and wilderness in ourselves and in the world, and in those places let us make a pathway for God to enter in,

**All: For the good tidings resound for every one of us – let us sing
and pray in thanksgiving!**

†THE ADVENT SONG

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn ⁽¹⁾

Rejoice, Rejoice

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, Em -
2 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
3 Re - rejoice, re - rejoice, take heart in the night. Though
man - u - el comes a sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our end - less
kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery day we share and
shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry!

†THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: In this Advent season, we each play a part in the unfolding drama of Jesus' birth. We are more likely to be found as harried, tense innkeepers than adoring shepherds at Jesus' side. Let us acknowledge that which distances us from the love and worship of God, and at times leaves us unable to be present to others.

†THE PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

People: God in whom all hearts find welcome, we confess that we have not yet made as much room in our hearts for the Christ child as we want to.

Leader: Like the innkeeper, we often relegate Christ to some out-of-the-way corner of our lives, without really intending to.

People: Like Bethlehem at census time, we have little room for anything we haven't planned for.

Leader: God, in whom all hearts find shelter, hear our prayer.

All: Help us, in the midst of our busy, sometimes burdened lives, to welcome the One who always has time for us.

†THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our Savior says, "Let not your heart be troubled. In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you...that where I am you may be also." Friends, the love of God is roomy, full of welcome. Know that you are forgiven; receive the welcome of God, where you will always find shelter.

All: Thanks be to God!

†THE RESPONSE *(The people singing)*

In dulci jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

THE WELCOME

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE: The Bethlehem Candle

The First Prophecy Reading: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 5-7, 9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of God shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom
and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
and the spirit of knowledge.

His delight shall be in honoring God.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Leader: Here ends the reading from the prophet Isaiah.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE CAROL (*remain seated to sing*)

St. Louis

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

(Following the Carol, the children in K-3 will be invited to leave for their Sunday school classes. Grades 4 & 5 will remain in the service for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.)

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence
The Receiving of the People's Gifts
The Handbell Anthem
Bethlehem

Michael Helman (*b* 1956)

†The Presentation of the Gifts and the Prayer of Dedication

Leader: As the gifts are presented, would all rise in body or spirit.

With sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, let us pray.

**People: O Lord our God, in holiness and splendor and love so strong
that the stars tremble,**

Leader: You come to earth to love us.

People: In gratitude for the precious gift of life, we bring these gifts.

Leader: We resolve this hour to love Christ with fresh devotion,

People: To serve him with renewed energy,

Leader: And to seek him in deepened prayer.

People: O God, bless this our promise.

All: Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

†THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: God be with you

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: We give You thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for Your blessing, an intrinsic gift of life. We do not have to ask for it or seek it or fear that it will not be there. It is of the essence of life.

People: Loving God, who made this world a place for Jesus Christ and before he was born, promised his coming in the words of the prophets, we thank You for this holy supper, which is for us a sign of his returning to claim his lands and people. Amen.

(The people may be seated.)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Celebrant: *(The Words of Institution for the Bread)*

The world is hungry for love and justice, O God,

People: And we are hungry to become Your disciples.

Celebrant: Bless now this bread, that in eating it, we may be filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ, and empowered to live as his sisters and brothers among all those who are in need.

Celebrant: *(The Words of Institution for the Cup)*

The world is thirsty for love and justice, O God,

People: And we thirst to become Your disciples.

Celebrant: Bless now this cup, that in drinking it, we may renew our covenant with You, and be fortified to nurture Your creation in hope and joy.

People: In our eating and drinking at this table, may our eyes be opened, and may we recognize the risen Christ in our midst and in each other.

Celebrant: As Christ taught us, we are bold to pray,

All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD* AND CUP

Each person will be invited to come to a communion station to receive the bread and cup. You will receive the bread from the server. Each person may then dip the bread in the chalice held by the other server. An appropriate response to the server's words is "Amen." After receiving communion each person should return to his or her chair by the side aisle. Anyone who is unable to come forward should indicate this to an usher and communion will be brought to him or her.

(*Non-alcoholic grape juice is served for everyone and gluten free bread is available on each bread plate in a separate cup.)

THE COMMUNION MUSIC

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Christmas Carol

arranged by Cathy Moklebust (b 1958)

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us Pray

All: Bountiful God, we give You thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of Your love in an uncertain world. Amen.

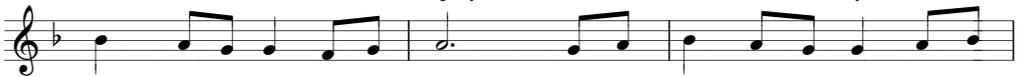
†THE ADVENT HYMN

like a child ⁽²⁾

like a child



1. like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
2. like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
3. like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a



child and a friend, Je - sus comes. like a child we may find claim - ing
child on the street, Je - sus comes. like a child we once knew com - ing
child here to stay, Je - sus comes. like a child we re - ceive all that



heart soul and mind, like a child strong and kind, Je - sus comes.
back in - to view, like a child born a - new, Je - sus comes.
love can con - ceive, like a child we be - lieve Je - sus comes.

†THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45 NRSV

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

like a child and a friend

†THE ADVENT CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

†THE BENEDICTION

†THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Recessional on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Robert Graham (1912-1992)

~ The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service ~

† *All rise in body or spirit*

PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Liturgist: The Reverend Ms. Katherine H. Shaner
Minister of Mission

Lighting the Advent Candle: Ryan and Amy Miller with
Connor and Evan

Ushers: Group C

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Sally R. Beske, *Associate Organist/Directors of Youth Choirs*
Tom Root, *guitar/songleader*

THE WHITECHAPEL RINGERS

Carol T. Neff, *Director*

Lara Belliston Cobb	Laurie Johannsen	Annita Meyer
Betty Drobny	Terry Johannsen	Janet Shearron
David Evans	Rachel Kauderer	Meg Wagner
Kim Harris	Deb Linville	Jeff Zoller
Carol Hofer		

⁽¹⁾ *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn.* Copyright © 1982 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽²⁾ *like a child.* Words, Music: © 1993 by Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

THIS AFTERNOON AT 4 PM
Carols for Christmas
 Sanctuary, South Campus
 This is our 45th annual Candlelight Christmas Concert
 presented by our
 Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers and Chamber Orchestra
 conducted by Ronald Jenkins.
 Freewill offering

Next Sunday, December 16 at 9 and 11 am
 The New World Singers (Columbus Children’s Choir)
 with the First Community Church Chancel Choir

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need. Please send notifications of weddings, births, hospitalizations or deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or call (614) 488-0681 ext 228

Parish Register

As of 12/5/18

Births

Georgia Greene Rego 11/8/18
Daughters of Emily & Jake Rego
Granddaughter of Bill & Jane Mead
Great-granddaughter of Priscilla Mead

Memorial Services

Tom Shutt (11/19/18)
 Friday, December 14, 2018
 3 pm/Schoedinger Northwest/
 Rev. Jim Long/ Reception following

Recently Hospitalized

Bert Kram
 Bill Porterfield

David Young (12/3/18)
 Friday, December 7, 2018
 7-9 pm/Schoedinger Northwest

Deaths

David Young 12/3/18
 Elsie McCall 12/4/18

Visit FCchurch.com/parish-register to view listings of upcoming Memorial Services.

- **Welcome visitors!** Stop by our Welcome Center for information on programs and activities and pick up a copy of our newspaper.
- **Church Membership:** Please contact Kristy Glaser at (614) 488-0681 ext. 161 or kglaser@FCchurch.com if you are interested in becoming a member.
- **Baptisms:** Our next Baptism Sunday will be January 14. For more information go to FCchurch.com/baptisms. To schedule a baptism, contact Paula Russell at (614) 488-0681 ext. 228 or prussell@FCchurch.com
- Watch the 9 am North Campus service live on Facebook and FCchurch.tv
- Watch *First Edition* on WWHO-TV, The CW, Sunday mornings at 8:30 am.
- If you need to step out during worship – restless child, coughing spell, etc. – the service can be heard in Unity Lounge.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher.
- Today the Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry is presenting two quilts. Tie a knot and say a prayer in Unity Lounge following the worship services. The quilts are for Ann Bateman and Mary Ellen Long.

TODAY AT FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

North Campus

9 am Worship: Grace Hall
 Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
 K-3rd grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.
 4th-5th grades: In worship.

11 am Worship: Grace Hall
 Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
 K-3rd grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.
 4th - 8th grades: In worship.

South Campus

10 am Worship: Sanctuary
 Crib to 5 years: Rooms 221 & 209
 K-3rd grades: Begin in worship, then excused to Lincoln Road Chapel.
 4th - 5th grades: In worship.

Grades 6-12 Crossroads 7 pm, North Campus.