



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Advent Theme: [Un]Expected

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

### Prelude

Variations on "Light in the Darkness" Bouma  
*Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

### \*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

Judy Bouma

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

\* Let us rise in body or spirit.

### Call to Advent

Judy Bouma

We come with expectations,

**Awaiting the unexpected.**

God calls us to create a community which welcomes all.

**To care for the infirm, to heal the shame of the outcast, to calm the fears of those  
afraid.**

Open our hearts to find you in community.

**In the hopeful, peaceful, joyful work of your people.**

Gathering one! Embracing one!

**The one who has come! The one who will come!**

### \*Processional Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*Black Hymnal, No. 107*

REJOICE, REJOICE

# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5*

*Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993*

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 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;

*The musical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and*

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9  
*Marty Haugen, 1983*

107 cont.

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing  
One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G G/B C G/B C G

lives now in - side us for ev - er. . . .  
shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .  
weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der. . . .  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## **\*Invocation**

O Lord, you know the deserts and the parched places in our lives. We seek your healing power. Lead us on this Advent journey to the place of new birth and to the place of our redemption; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## **\*Gloria**

*Black Hymnal, chorus of No. 125*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Judy Bouma

We come to Advent with expectations.  
But we've learned to be ready for the Unexpected.  
Which causes uncertainty, anxiety, and fear.  
And so we wait, anticipate, and prepare.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**  
But there are also signs,  
of hope and beauty and even joy.  
Not just future possibilities to anticipate,  
But real moments of wonder and excitement.  
And, so today, we light these candles, rejoicing.  
**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**



**Christmas Pageant** *Wise Ones: An [Un]Expected Journey*

by Katie Miller

Starring First Kids, Youth, and Kids at Heart

## Congregational Hymns

see insert & Katie Miller for cues

We Three Kings  
Silent Night  
O Come All Ye Faithful  
Away In A Manger  
Go Tell It On The Mountain

### **WE THREE KINGS**

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light

### **SILENT NIGHT**

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm and all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant, so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, ooh  
Sleep, sleep in heaven, heavenly peace

### **O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

### **AWAY IN A MANGER**

Away in a manger  
No crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down his sweet head  
The stars in the sky

Look down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay

### **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born  
That Jesus Christ is born

### **Offertory**

What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

### **\*Hymn of Dedication**

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God whom we adore. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

Take these gifts, and gather us back together, O God, we who have separated ourselves from our neighbors, from our higher selves, and from your expansive Love. Reunite us with our calling. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn** Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates *Black Hymnal*, No. 117

TRURO

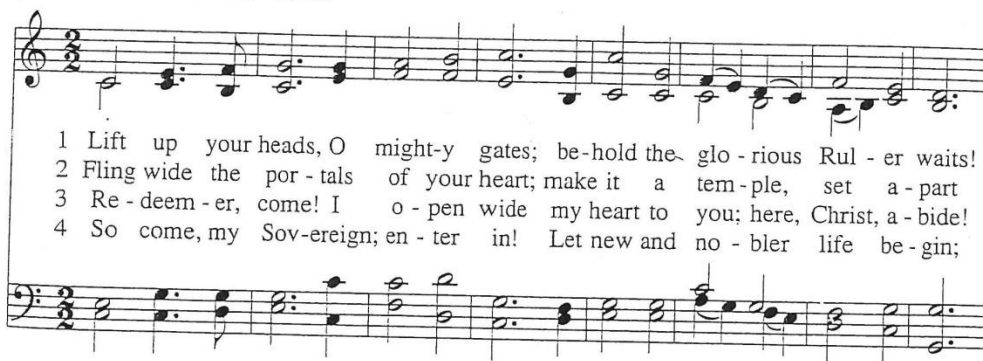
# Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

117

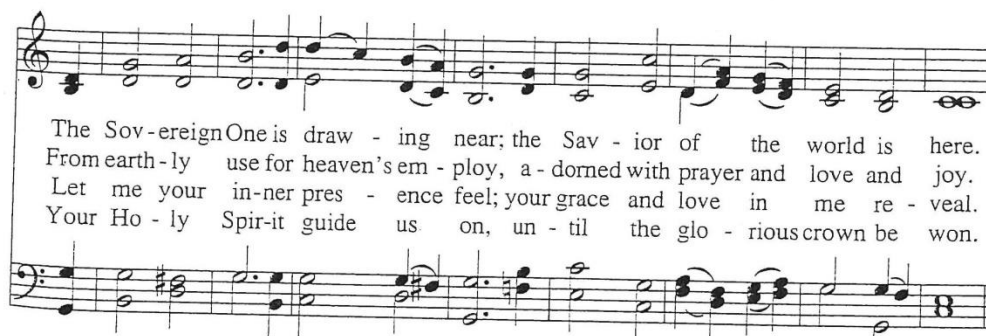
Georg Weissel, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.

Ps. 24:7-10



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the-glo-ri-ous Rul-er waits!  
2 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple, set a-part  
3 Re-deem-er, come! I o-pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a-bide!  
4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler life be-gin;



The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.  
From earth-ly use for heaven's em-ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
Let me your in-ner pres-ence feel; your grace and love in me re-veal.  
Your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be won.

*Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year.*

Tune: TRURO L.M.  
Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

## \*Benediction

### Benediction Response

Bouma

Oh Come to Us, Abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel.

### Postlude

God Rest Ye Merry

*You are invited to remain for the playing of the postlude.*

*Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.*

Special thanks this week to our First Kids teachers **Susan Dolezal, Sandy Lee, Deena Higginbotham, James Askew, and Alex Gross!**

**Open & Affirming Statement**

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand, and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment, all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.



## Announcements

### December 12, 2021

**Happy Birthday this week:** *Katie Lewis, Carolyn Baldwin, Allan Bucknam, Tiffany Weibel, Rita Grossenstein, Evan Dimon, and Rosemary Lowndes.*

**Chancel flowers and decorations:** Donors this month are *Friends & Family of FCC.*

**Fair Trade Coffee:** Sponsored this month by *Janet Kuehl.*

**FirstKids:** Wise Ones: [Un]Expected Journey during worship.

*Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.*



## **Activities for the Coming Week** **December 12-18**

*Lectionary Readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)*

**Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.  
Eves Christmas Party, 7 p.m., Zoom

**Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Caroling, 5:30 p.m.  
Vespers, 8 p.m., Facebook Live

**Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Congregational Care, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## **Sunday, December 19**

**Worship:** Jazz during worship, 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live, YouTube, or in person. Masks required.

**First Forum:** Blackstone Neighborhood History with Jim Farrow.

*The church calendar is also available at [www.firstcentral.org](http://www.firstcentral.org)  
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*