

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROCHESTER
ROCHESTER, WISCONSIN
December 4, 2022
Second Sunday in Advent

CANDLE LIGHTING

CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE: Lora Gensler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ruth Frost

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joanne Potter & Mary Krall

INTROIT: Choir

*OPENING HYMN: # 87 "Long Ago, Prophets Knew"

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

Leader: Come, join with us, as we observe Advent - in preparation for the joys of Christmas.

People: We are gladdened by the sharing of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace in this Holy Season.

Leader: Come, hear and heed the Angel's words, "Peace on Earth, and good will to mankind.

People: We are here together, and Christ is here with us. No gift is greater than 'God with us'.

All: In this sacred time and place, we will celebrate the nativity of the Son of God, and be mindful of all the preparations, made by the Father in Heaven, for the appearance of the humble - but precious Christ Child.

*THE GLORIA PATRI: #558

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen, Amen.

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (unison)

Come Emanuel, be born anew in our hearts. God be with us, in us, above us, and surrounding us - is our hope and welcoming cry. Be our Savior, Teacher, Healer, and Advocate. We are weak and fraught with uncertainties, but you are almighty, good, wise, and all knowing. Help us in the preparing of our hearts and minds - for the celebration of the first Advent of Christ in Bethlehem. And make us ever aware that you are coming again as king of kings - in power and glory. Strengthen our Hope, deepen our Love, restore our Joy, and calm our spirits with your Peace. In The name of Christ, our Emanuel, we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION: # 85 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:1-17 & Ephesians 1:1-10

SERMON: "From Eden's Garden - to the Empty Tomb's Garden" Rev. Paul Ray

SPECIAL MUSIC: Choir "The Staff of Faith" By Craig Courtney

SHARING OUR LIVES TOGETHER:

Thanksgivings
Concerns of the Community

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Silent Prayer
Prayers of Intercession and Supplication
The Lord's Prayer (debts)

SHARING OUR GIFTS:

Call to Giving (offering trays located in the back of church)

Doxology

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: # 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

LOOKING AHEAD AT OUR CALENDAR:

- Sunday, Dec 4 Worship is at 10:00 am. Special Music is by the Choir.
- Wednesday, Dec 7 Jubilee will perform at 1 pm at Oak Park Place Senior Care facility
Choir Rehearsal at 7 pm.
- Sunday, Dec 11 Worship is at 10:00 am. Sunday school. Special Music by Rose Seeger on chimes.
- Wednesday, Dec 14 Choir Rehearsal at 7 pm.
- Saturday, Dec 17 Sunday School program PRACTICE begins at 10 am
- Sunday, Dec 18 Worship is at 10:00 am. Sunday School program during Worship Hour.
Refreshments to follow along with a special guest appearance!
- Monday, Dec 19 Church Council meets at 6:30 pm.
- Saturday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at 7 pm.
- Sunday, Dec. 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! No service on Christmas Day.

OUR SUPPORTED MISSIONS:

Love Incorporated (Burlington, WI) Transitional Living Center (Kansasville, WI)
The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
Casa Bernabe Orphanage (Guatemala)

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