

**The Presque Isle Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**November 27, 2022 - First Sunday in Advent**

**Prelude**

Barbara Merryman

**Gathering Music**

*O Holy One*<sup>1</sup>

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

**Welcome**

Melissa Vance

**Advent Candle Lighting**

**The Candle of Hope**

Allen and Susan Morrill

**Introit**

*Dona Nobis Pacem*<sup>2</sup>

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Surely, God is in this place,

People: **and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: Surely, God is in this place receiving our songs and praise.

All: **God is in this place! Let us sing with joy.**

Leader: Surely, God is in this place providing lessons through Scripture.

All: **God is in this place. Let us be attentive in all things.**

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison)

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us, God of the hope that the present has brought us, we call on you in this hour of worship. We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us—Emmanuel, even before the child was born. We open our hearts to receive your gifts, for you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace, the Giver of joy, the Giver of love. Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

**Opening Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*<sup>4</sup>

**Prayer of Transformation** (in unison)

In a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God. Consumed by the chaos of the world, We lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace. We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods. Felt in days when unborn hope had died; We've forgotten that you promised us hope for a future. So, stimulate our memory, dear God. Remind us of that hope you assured us of. Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.

**Words of Grace**

**Two-Minute Message**

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<sup>2</sup> *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Words and Music - © OCP. Contributors: Unknown Traditional, Traditional. Performed by the Virtual Choir of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. Permission to print/podcast/stream granted by One License #A-726652. All rights reserved.

<sup>3</sup> Opening Prayer, Prayer of Transformation and Words of Grace were written by Rev. Mia M. McClain for UCC *Worship Ways* Advent 1, Year A. She is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington DC and is also an ordained UCC minister.

<sup>4</sup> *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*. Text: Charles Wesley. Public Domain. Tune: HYFRYDOL. Rowland Pritchard. Public Domain. Performed by the Virtual Choir of the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church with James Biery, Organist and Director. Grosse Pointe, MI. Permission to print/podcast and stream granted by One License #A-726652.

## Scripture Reading

## Psalm 122 (CEB)

I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let’s go to the Lord’s house!” Now our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem! Jerusalem is built like a city joined together in unity. That is where the tribes go up—the Lord’s tribes! It is the law for Israel to give thanks there to the Lord’s name, because the thrones of justice are there—the thrones of the house of David! Pray that Jerusalem has peace: “Let those who love you have rest. Let there be peace on your walls; let there be rest on your fortifications.” For the sake of my family and friends, I say, “Peace be with you, Jerusalem.” For the sake of the Lord our God’s house I will pray for your good.

## Reflection<sup>5</sup>

## Choral Anthem

*Come, Come Immanuel*<sup>6</sup>

PIUCC Choir

## Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

When the reader pauses, please repeat, ***Emmanuel, Come. Come and save us.***

Our **Creator**\*, 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

***\*Please use whatever name is most familiar/comfortable when you pray to God.***

## Closing Hymn

*Let Us Build a House Where Love Can Dwell*<sup>7</sup>

## Benediction

## Postlude

Barbara Merryman

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<sup>5</sup> *Living Psalms for Advent 1A - Psalm 122*. © Copyright 2022 Samantha Houser. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved. Creative video music by Aidan Spencer. Permission granted by authors to use video in local settings.

<sup>6</sup> *Come, Come, Immanuel*. Words and Music - ©1995 Jubilate Music. Contributors: Jay Althouse. Permission to stream granted by One License #A-726652.

<sup>7</sup> *Let Us Build a House Where Can Dwell (All Are Welcome)*. Contributors: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. Performed by the Virtual Choir of the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church with James Biery, Organist and Director. Grosse Pointe, MI. Permission to print/podcast stream granted by One License #A-726652.



**First Sunday in Advent**

**November 27, 2022**

**Lighting the Candle of Hope<sup>1</sup>**

**Reader**

*As winter days dim and bow to early darkness, you, God of light, set watch in the night sky and beckon the wise to follow.*

*When hope hangs low in the human heart, you loving Creator, kindle compassion, breathing life into the early embers of change and empathy.*

Light the first **purple** candle.

**Reader**

*We light a candle for hope, sending prayers high into the inky heavens and dreams deep into the human soul. As Advent dawns, God of all hope, shine your light on the story of the saints who journeyed before us. May the seeds they planted in the world—peace, joy, love—take hold in our hearts and stretch towards the light.*

**ALL. We light a candle for hope. May it light the way.**

**Sung Response**

***A Candle is Burning***

*(Sung to the tune of Away In a Manger)<sup>2</sup>*

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright.  
A candle of HOPE in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky  
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

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<sup>1</sup> Advent readings adapted from readings originally shared by Christian Aid ([www.christianaid.org.UK](http://www.christianaid.org.UK)) as part of their #LighttheWay and found on [www.inclusivegathering.org.uk](http://www.inclusivegathering.org.uk) #adventproject2020.

<sup>2</sup> *A Candle is Burning*. Words: Sandra Dean (1986). Ms. Dean is a former Director of Music at Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The song is used with her permission and blessing. Tune: Attributed to James. R. Murray (1887). MUELLER. Public Domain. Permission to stream granted by One License A-726652.

## **COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

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- Verse 1      Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.
- Verse 2      Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of every longing heart.
- Verse 3      Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
- Verse 4      By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **LET US BUILD A HOUSE (*All Are Welcome*)**

*(Words and Music - ©1994 GIA Publications, Inc. Contributors: Marty Haugen)*

- Verse 1      Let us build a house where love and dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive  
built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.
- Verse 2      Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine, and wheat:  
a banquet hall of hold ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.
- Verse 3      Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.
- Verse 4      Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, All are welcome, All are welcome in this place.