



**Welcome**

**Prelude/Candle-Lighting** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" RuthAnn Ledgerwood  
(John Rutter)

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle** April Wlaschin and  
Lisa, Martha, and Eric Cody

Reader 1: When God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people...Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid."

**All: We gather as people who seek both comfort and peace.**

Reader 2: But we are not content with the kind of peace that means simply keeping quiet. We long for real peace. A true peace. A just peace.

**All: We wait as people who yearn for a peace that is not simply the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice.**

Reader 1: God promises us *shalom*, a peace that includes all people and the whole of creation. A peace in which all are fed; all receive healing; and all have what they need.

**All: We light these candles as signs of shocking hope in God's promise of just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of God's Kin-dom.**

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Holy One, we hear the voice of your prophets crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" We long to be your people. We yearn to help prepare your way toward peace and reconciliation. Make us ready to join in your mission for creation. Having lit the Advent candles, we now offer you our lives. Come among us, Emmanuel, in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymnal #9

**Readings** Sandy Lindow

Isaiah 40:1-8

Mark 1:1-8

Contemporary reading from "Christmas in the Trenches" by John McCutcheon

**Anthem** "Carol of the Advent" Choir  
(arr. Philip R. Dietterich)

<b>Sermon</b>	<i>Pierced by Peace</i>	Rev. Kathleen Remund
<b>Transitional Music</b>	“There’s a Song in the Air” (Dwight Gustafson)	RuthAnn Ledgerwood
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	“The Colors of Christmas” (John Rutter)	RuthAnn Ledgerwood

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

**God our Peace, as we bring our offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the One who comes in love and compassion. May our giving in this season reflect our hope for your promised Kingdom to reign in our world. Amen.**

<b>*Closing Hymn</b>	“Prepare the Way”	Hymnal #13
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**\*Benediction**

Leader: Friends and seekers along the journey of faith, go in peace. Go in peace of mind. Go and make peace with your neighbor. Go to follow the way of shalom—God’s just peace. And go forth in the confident knowledge that God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Spirit our Revealer—God, the ever-present Emmanuel—is with you.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Sung Benediction**

God be with you till we meet again;  
By their counsels guide, uphold you;  
With their sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

<b>Postlude</b>	“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (Cindy Berry)	RuthAnn Ledgerwood
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*Today’s flowers are from Marie Koch for Neil’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 12. Happy birthday, Neil!*

**Credits**

- The Call to Worship/Advent Candle-Lighting, Opening Prayer and Prayer of Dedication were adapted from pieces written by Dr. Lisa Hancock for Discipleship Ministries and posted at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/our-spirit-waits/>.
- The Benediction was adapted from one published in *God With Us: Advent Worship Liturgy Set*, © 2022 Illustrated Ministry, LLC., [www.illustratedministry.com](http://www.illustratedministry.com)
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## **This Week**

**Today, December 10<sup>th</sup>, following worship:** Enjoy Neil Koch's birthday cake during coffee hour

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>:** 5:15pm, Pre-council meal; 6:00 pm, Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>:** 4-6pm, Kid's Club Intergenerational Christmas Party, Fellowship Hall  
5:30pm, Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

## **Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI**

We are called together:

To celebrate God's presence.

To help each person to grow in his or her relationship with God;

To Create a welcoming and supportive community of all God's people;

The diversity of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression,  
and identity, social and economic status, and the differently abled;

To observe and share life's passages and our faith traditions;

To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;

And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Here we congregate on Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho Chunk land. Generations of Indigenous people occupied and provided careful stewardship of this land long before Europeans arrived on these shores. The traumatic dispossession of this land by European immigrants and the displacement of countless individuals produced collective suffering that has repercussions for our Indigenous neighbors today. The original inhabitants of this land—known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island—took seriously the Creator's call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creatures. With gratitude, we acknowledge the lessons we continue to learn from our Indigenous neighbors as we seek to be good stewards and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations.

## **Announcements**

### ***Worship Volunteers***

January slots for Readers, Coffee Hour Servers and flower contributors are waiting to be filled. The sign-up sheets are on the clipboards in the west entryway. Please share your gifts of time and talent!

### ***Snow Days Reminder***

It's that time of year when snow and ice storms can begin to interfere with activities. In case of inclement weather, please check the Menomonie Area School District's website to find out their plans. If schools are closed or are cancelling after-school activities, we will do the same here at church.

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its  
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap-tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom-y clouds of  
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

## 13

## Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847)  
Adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980; alt. 1989*Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697*  
Arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930

1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, Your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; He comes from heaven a - bove.  
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; Your Sav - ior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley A lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, And jus - tice, truth, and love.  
And tid - ings of sal - va - tion Pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, For grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, Their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.