

First
Congregational
Church of St. Louis
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

First Congregational Church of St. Louis
United Church of Christ
An Open & Affirming Congregation

Welcome!

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Restrooms are located down the hall on the main floor.

All Gender Restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary
and downstairs in the Fellowship Hall (which is accessible).

Changing tables are located in the Nursery on the main floor
and at the back of the sanctuary.

Childcare for infants-preschoolers is located
in the nursery on the main floor.

***An asterisk** is an invitation to rise, in body or spirit.
Bolded text is an invitation for the congregation
to read or sing in unison.

For everyone's health and safety:

- Masks are required for everyone ages 5 and over while indoors.
- Ushers will not collect offerings. Instead, you may place your offerings in the baskets located in the Tower Room and Narthex.
- Children remaining in worship should sit with their parents in the pews. Children may get activities from the Prayground and then return to the pews.
- At the conclusion of worship, attendees should exit the sanctuary promptly to avoid prolonged, close contact.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License
with license # A-720972

The First Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens



Welcome & Announcements

Bert Merrell, S&A

Prelude

"Come, Savior of the Nations"

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Fathering time, Mothering creation,

People: Parenting all people ... God!

Leader: Waiting for the right moment,

People: Preparing the right way,

Leader: Intending the right woman ... God!

People: We believe in one God.

Leader: We come to worship our God.

People: Maker and mover of heaven and earth!

***Opening Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#116 vv. 1 & 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Mother, 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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.

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2, 6

Rev. Mia White

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hanging of the Wreaths and Greens

Rev. Mia White

Reader: Evergreens are a symbol of things that last.
Isaiah wrote that there would be no end to the Messiah's reign.

Family Ornament Tree

Emily Stokes

*Passing of the Peace

Emily Stokes



***Congregational Song**

"The Holly and the Ivy"

Trad. English Carol



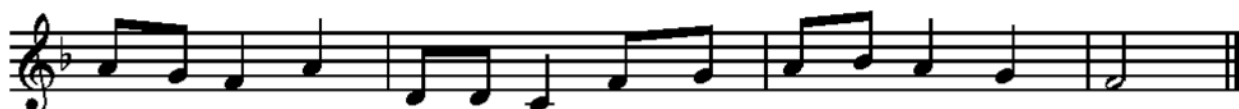
1. The hol-ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown, of
2. The hol-ly bears a blos-som as white as an - y flower, and
3. The hol-ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood, and
4. The hol-ly bears a branch__ as sharp as an - y thorn, and



1. all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the__ crown.
2. Ma-ry bore sweet__ Je-sus Christ to be our sweet Sav - ior.
3. Ma-ry bore sweet__ Je-sus Christ to do poor sin - ners__ good.
4. Ma-ry bore sweet__ Je-sus Christ on Christ-mas day in the morn.



- 1-4. The ris-ing of the sun and the run-ning of the deer, the



- 1-4. play-ing of the mer-ry or - gan, sweet sing-ing in the choir.

Scripture

Revelation 22:12-13, 16

Suzy Besnia

“Look, I am coming soon!

My reward is with me, and I will give to each person
according to what they have done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last,
the Beginning and the End.

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.
I am the Root and the Offspring of David,
and the bright Morning Star.”

Changing of the Paraments

Suzy Besnia

Reader: Today marks the beginning of a new church year.
Purple, the color for penitence and royalty,
is used to mark the seasons of Advent and Lent,
the times of preparation before Christmas and Easter.
Like the cycles of the church year,
we are reminded that God is the first and last,
the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
God is our bright Morning Star.
We remember this with the star that led the magi
to the baby in the manger.
May we prepare our hearts and minds
for the coming of a Savior into our world today.

Anthem

"E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" *Music by Paul Manz*
Text by Ruth Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!*

Children's Moment: Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Emily Stokes

Reader: In the midst of conflict and unrest,
we are called to be messengers of peace.
In a dark world, we are called to be carriers of God's light.
We light this candle as a symbol of Peace.
Make us ready, O God, for the coming of Jesus,
our light and our peace.



*Hymn

"Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"

#112

Keep awake, be always ready,
God's time approaches sure and steady,
God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing,
disperse, God's purest light revealing;
creation will its Sovereign name.
Dry branches burst forth green,
God's advent signs are seen: Hallelujah!
Christ's judgment won, God's will be done;
God's new dominion thus begun.

Rise and shine for One is coming
whose love will quench all nature's thirsting
to be made whole forever more.
On that day to end all weeping,
death's swords transformed to tools of reaping,
the God of might will mercy pour.
Incarnate, God appears
embracing all our tears: Hallelujah!
God's majesty eternally
revealed to set the cosmos free.

Scripture

Isaiah 41:17–20

June & Eve Wiens

The poor and needy search for water,
but there is none;
their tongues are parched with thirst.
But I the Lord will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
I will make rivers flow on barren heights,
and springs within the valleys.
I will turn the desert into pools of water,
and the parched ground into springs.
I will put in the desert
the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.
I will set junipers in the wasteland,
the fir and the cypress together,
so that people may see and know,
may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Hanging of the Chrismons

Robyn Wiens

Reader: With the Christmas tree, we remember God's everlasting promises to the poor and needy.
Today, we decorate this pine tree with symbols and signs of Christ to remind us of Christ's identity, God's story, and the Holy Trinity.



***Closing Hymn**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#116 vv. 5 & 6

**O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide your heavenly home;
Make safe the path to endless day,
to hell's destruction close the way.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

***Blessing**

**Leader: In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity,
People: that our praise and worship might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.**

**Leader: In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission,
People: that the hope within might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.**

**Leader: In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service,
that the path we follow**

People: might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity. Amen

Postlude

"Sleepers Wake, A Voice Is Calling"

J.S. Bach

Thank you to those serving today.

We are grateful for our guest organist, Bill Aitken.

Greeters: Melissa Wurst, Karen Safe

Announcements: Bert Merrell

Enjoy a Cuppa!

Coffee bar is open at the back of the church from 9:30 until 11:30 Sunday mornings. Enjoy coffee, tea or hot cocoa in a compostable paper cup or bring your own to-go mug from home. Please keep your mask ON - and lower it just to take a sip so we can all stay COVID safe!

2022 Pledge

Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge cards for 2022. Extra pledge cards are available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree partnership with the Child Protection & Permanency Unit (formerly named the Truancy Initiative) is going virtual! Visit the sign up genius in the email newsletter or scan the News & Events QR code below.

Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us for Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:20 AM. Meeting ID is **3147215060** (church phone number) and the passcode is **coffee**.

Upcoming Events:

Sun. Dec. 12, 10 AM - Celebration of ONA Covenant Reaffirmation

Sun. Dec. 12, 3 PM - *Early Music @ 1st: 17th* - C German Music of the Season

Sat. Dec. 18, 10 AM - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sun. Dec. 19, 10 AM - Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

Fri. Dec. 24, 5 PM & 10 PM - Christmas Eve Worship Services

June 12-18, 2022 - Mission Trip



**News
& Events**

Scan these QR codes to learn
about these events (and more)
and to give online.
(Open your phone's camera
and point it at the codes)



**Give
Online**

Share the Gift of Christmas

As you prepare your list this Advent & Christmas season,
please remember the giving opportunities at FCC:

**The Clara B. & Paul S. McElroy
and Tevis Huber & William Stanley Mellish Scholarship Funds**
(providing scholarships for students at Eden Seminary)

The Molly Suzanne Beavers Scholarship Fund
(educational assistance for FCC members)

The UCC Christmas Fund
(One of the Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ,
supporting UCC clergy in times of financial or other crisis)

Make a gift of a Poinsettia
to brighten our Sanctuary: \$30 suggested offering

Please complete this form and turn it in to the church office **by December 15**
to be included in the December 19 and Christmas Eve worship bulletins.

Name: _____ Total Christmas Gift: \$ _____

**Please make all checks payable to First Congregational Church
with the designation in the memo.**

McElroy Fund \$ _____ In Honor/Memory/Celebration (circle one) of:

Mellish Fund \$ _____ In Honor/Memory/Celebration (circle one) of:

Beavers Fund \$ _____ In Honor/Memory/Celebration (circle one) of:

UCC Christmas Fund \$ _____ In Honor/Memory/Celebration (circle one) of:

Poinsettia \$ _____ In Honor/Memory/Celebration (circle one) of:



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you are welcome here.*

Our Ministry Team:

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Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

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Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS), Senior Minister
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