

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



— *Let Us Dream God's Dream* —

THOSE
WHO *keep awake*
DREAM
1st sunday in advent

Sunday Worship • November 27, 2022

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.

The Coffee Bar is available at the back of the sanctuary from 9:30–11:30.

***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.

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Announcements

Ken Blumer

Choir Director

Stephanie Ruggles

Usher

Mark Barlow

Organist

Ruth Tweeten

Scripture

Karen Safe

Chancel Choir

Jeral Becker, Carol Bell, Marty Black,
Paul Black, Kathy Botney, Dan Brodsky,
Mary Brown, Megan Glass, Carol Klein,
Sheila Merrell, David Piston,
Nathan Ruggles, Leila Sadat, Aiden Smith

Zoom Coffee Hour Host

Jane Feagans-King

Worship November 27, 2022



Welcome & Announcements

Ken Blumer, *Moderator*

Prelude

"Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling"

J. S. Bach

*Call to the People

Leader: The power of dreams lies in waking up.

People: For when we close our eyes, we can see a better world.

Leader: When we close our eyes, we can dream a better dream.

People: But when we open our eyes, we begin the work of faith.

Leader: The power of worship is the same.

People: When we enter this time, we can see a better world.

Leader: When we enter this time, we dream a better dream.

People: But when we leave this time of worship, we begin the work of faith.

Leader: So come in. Dream your dream.

People: Find hope here.

Leader: For in an hour,

People: We will begin the work of faith.

Leader: Let it be so.

*Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#116, vv. 1-2, 6-7
VENI EMMANUEL

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

[Refrain] 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.

[Refrain]

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.

[Refrain]

O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

[Refrain]

Lighting of the First Advent Candle - *Hope*

Emily Stokes & Shaun Latham
Hannah Rice, Shayla & Shamdon Latham

Leaders: I dream of sunflower fields.

I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.

I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

I dream of snow days.

I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.

I dream of schools with enough money to teach.

I dream of parents with enough money to feed.

I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days,
then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing
that keeps dreams afloat.

Lighting of the candle of Hope

May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—
people who dream. Amen.

Prayers of Petition & Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Anthem

"Lord, Before This Fleeting Season" Text by Mary Ann Jindra
Music by Libby Larsen

Lord, before this fleeting season is upon us, let me remember to walk slowly.

Lord, bless my heart with Love. Give my heart a leaning to hear carols.

Grace our family with contentment, and the peace that comes only from You.

Lord, help us to do less this busy season;

Go less; stay closer to home; kneel more.

May our hearts be Your heart.

May we simply, peacefully, celebrate You.

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Moment

Emily Stokes

Scripture

Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
So also, when you see these things taking place,
you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you,
this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son,
but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come.
It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,
each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come,
in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn,
or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Anthem

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Paul 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!*

Scripture Reflection

Valerie Jackson

***Hymn**

"Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"

#112

WACHET AUF

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.

***Blessing**

Leader: We may not know when, but we will go,
People: to bring God's grace to our broken world.
Leader: We may not know who, yet we will go,
People: To receive Jesus' hope from those
we are uncomfortable being around.
Leader: We may not know how, so we will go,
People: To share the Spirit's peace in the most unusual places.

Postlude

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

Johann Walther

- Announcements -

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

Sunday December 18 during Worship

Our Christmas pageant is in just a few weeks! This is an intergenerational event, so there is a part for everyone of every age, speaking and non-speaking, as well as a need for adult helpers. Rehearsal is Dec. 17, 10 am-12 pm, and before worship on Dec. 18. Talk to Emily Stokes for more information!

Virtual Giving Tree

Bring gifts Dec. 11, 11 AM-12 PM

Our annual Giving Tree partnership with the Child Protection & Permanency Unit (formerly named the Truancy Initiative) is going virtual! Our online Giving Tree lists children's names, ages, sizes, and gift wishes. Many of the children are in the foster care system. We've included the child's race so you can choose toys and gifts that might represent them best (especially dolls and figurines). It is up to you which, or how many, gifts to provide. Please bring your wrapped gifts each labeled with the child's name and case worker's initials and drop them off in the church parking lot on Sunday, December 11 between 11-12 pm. Click the link in the Friday church email to access the sign up.

2023 Stewardship

Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge cards as we dream God's dream together! We are still accepting them if you'd like to make a financial commitment to First Congregational Church in 2023. We have extra pledge cards if you are in need of one.

Faith & Fun Sunday Mornings

2nd & 4th Sundays

Elementary kiddos are invited to join Emily for Faith & Fun - faith-filled activities and lessons - during worship (after the Children's Moment) on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

This Week at FCC

Sunday November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:20 AM - Zoom Coffee Hour

Meeting ID: 314 721 5060

Passcode: coffee

7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Church Office Closed on Mondays

Staff Team Day Off

Tuesday November 29

10:00 AM - Sacred Studies & Fellowship
(Parlor)

Wednesday November 30

8:00 AM - Wydown Men's Club (Soc. Hall)

Thursday December 1

7:30 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday December 2

6:00 PM - First Friday Fun (Social Hall)

Sunday December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:20 AM - Zoom Coffee Hour

7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Liturgical Resources used in this service:

Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC
sanctifiedart.org

Blessing: lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com



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you are welcome here.*

Our Ministry Team:

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Emily Stokes (MAPS), Minister of Children & Families
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

Hannah Rice (MDiv), Minister of Administration and Membership
(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS, CSD), Senior Minister
(revmia@firstcongregational.org)



**FCC
Calendar**



**News
& Events**



**Give
Online**

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