



Sunday, December 1, 2024

**Good Morning and Welcome to
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

***We are here to help people know God,
find freedom, discover their purpose,
and make a difference in the community, near and far.***

***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...
You are welcome here.***

Reach Up. Reach Out. Reach In.

PRELUDE

Scott Hays-Strom

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melody Burns

Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God's peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

The days are surely coming!

Children of God, we must prepare our hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God's reign among us.

The days are surely coming and are already here!

Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kin-dom on the earth here and now. Will we join in?

The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kin-dom of earth as it is in heaven.

GATHERING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #128

One Candle Is Lit

Verse: 1

1

Come surely, Lord Jesus,
as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you,
as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us,
our vision engage.
One candle is lit
for the hope of the age.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Deb & Paul Cook

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

OPENING PRAYER

Melody Burns

God of our Expectation,
We praise you for surely-coming days when you will execute Shalom: love, peace, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness. We await with assurance the surely-coming days when AIDS is cured, when every gun is beaten into tools for rebuilding, when every child has the opportunity to develop God-given gifts, and when every adult sees every child as a gift from God. We desire, O God of our Hope, surely-coming days when no city fears hurricanes, no country fears nuclear bombs, and no tribe fears annihilation by another. We thank you for the surely-coming days when no person fears another because God chose to create all people in the diversity of God's image. We thank you for our hope and for your surely-coming days. Amen.

PASS THE PEACE

Rev. Patrick Crocker

PRAYERS

HYMN OF GRATITUDE

Chalice Hymnal #132

Like a child

Verses 1, 2, 3

1

Like a child would send
to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes
like a child we may find
claiming heart soul and mind,
like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes

3

Like a child born to pray
and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes
like a child we receive
all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe
Jesus comes

2

Like a child we will meet,
ragged clothes, dirty feet,
like a child on the street,
Jesus comes
like a child we once knew
coming back into view,
like a child born anew,
Jesus comes

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

Debby Johnson

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36 (FNV)

SERMON

Rev. Patrick Crocker
Hope in Our Time

COMMUNION HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #119
Verse 1, 3

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1

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

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

3

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING

Rev. Patrick Crocker

GOING FORTH HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #132
Verse 1

When God Is a Child

1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

POSTLUDE

Scott Hays-Strom

UPCOMING SERVICES

Services are at 10:15 am MST unless otherwise noted.

December 8, 2024

Worship Leader:

Sue Bogart

Offering:

Deb Cook

Communion:

Scott Hays-Strom

December 15, 2024

Worship Leader:

Jeanne Knotts

Offering:

Esther Devall

Communion:

Deb Cook

December 22, 2024

Worship Leader:

Deb Cook

Offering:

Paul Cook

Communion:

Esther Devall

December 24, 2024

6:30pm

Worship Leaders:

TBD

Communion:

TBD

December 29, 2024

Worship Leader:

Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

Offering:

Zanté Garcia

Communion:

Paul Cook

January 5, 2025

Worship Leader:

Hilda McKee

Offering:

TBD

Communion:

Zanté Garcia

Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.

For more information, visit globalministries.org.

If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!

Please come worship with us again!

About First Christian Church

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we celebrate communion weekly. We welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.

We are the United Church of Christ, committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. Why? Because God is still speaking.

We are an Open and Affirming community. In Christ's example, we want to offer all persons, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity the opportunity to discover and develop their gifts of God's love and service.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sun.9:00 am** Bible Study
Sun.10:15 am Worship Service *
Thu.9:00 am Spiritual Practices

** Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church, and live-streamed via [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Live](#).*

MONTHLY EVENTS

- First Sun. 11:30 am** Celebrate birthdays in the month
6:30 pm Contemplative Worship
First Wed. 6:30 pm Crafter's Group
Third Sun. 11:30 am Potluck
Third Wed. 11:30 am Brown Bag Lunch
Fourth Wed. 6:30 pm Discussion Group

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