



Grace

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Grace United Church of Christ

November 28, 2021

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

**First Sunday of Advent**

\* Indicates you are invited to stand in body and/or spirit  
Items in **Bold** indicate you are invited to join with your voice.

**PRELUDE**

Father I Adore You - Coelho

**CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES**

\* **WORDS OF WELCOME**

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

People: **In this safe space, may God grant us the  
vision to see the Holy in each other and  
the Holy in ourselves.**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Lord will fulfill all the promises given  
to God's people.

People: **Praise be to God.**

Leader: The days are coming when all shall be  
revealed.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The signs of God's Good News are all  
around us.

**People:** The darkness has overshadowed them.  
**Leader:** God will bring to us a new light for all generations.  
**People:** Open our eyes, Lord, to see your promises fulfilled.

**\* GATHERING PRAYER**

**Prepare your way within us, O God, as the new year of life in your Church unfolds. Make of us a people ready to receive you, to learn from you, to receive your gifts, and to live out your calling in mission. Prepare your way within us and fill us with hope, we pray, through the name of the Coming One, Jesus our Christ. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

**O Come All You Faithful**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

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

*Experiencing the word and the light*

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

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

**Leader:** O God of wholeness,  
Let us not be put to shame.  
Some of us live *with* shame everyday  
In our bodies  
In our hearts  
In our self-images, self-esteem, and self-regard.

**People:** **Have mercy.**

**Leader:** Others of us have afflicted our siblings with shame  
By our racism

By our ableism  
By our sexism and heterosexism.  
**People: Have mercy.**  
Leader: You instruct both sinners and the upright in  
your ways, Sovereign one.  
**People: Teach us, so that some of us may be  
free, and some of us may learn to be  
free of fault. Amen.**

*(Moment of silence and reflection)*

## **ASSURANCE OF BLESSING**

**A GIFT OF MUSIC** The First and Second Coming-DeFrango

**SACRED TEXT** Jeremiah 33:14-16 NRSV

### **\*CENTERING HYMN**

**Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates TNCH 117**

**SACRED TEXT** Luke 21:25-36 NRSV

## **REFLECTION**

### **\*SUNG RESPONSE**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever, Now and evermore.**

### **\*INVITATION TO FAITHFUL SHARING**

### **\*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!**

### **\*DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

**The day of redemption draws near  
For all who labor but do not eat,  
For all who are hated for how they love.**

**For all who live with a sense of foreboding,  
wondering what injury will be inflicted on their  
bodies because of their bodies. We offer these gifts  
as a taste of the equitable world to come. Amen.**

## **MORNING PRAYER**

### **THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

**Our 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 debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
And the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel TNCH 116 (Verses 1, 2, 6, 7)**

### **\*WORDS OF SENDING AND PEACE**

### **\*SENDING RESPONSE**

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith  
confessing,  
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

## **POSTLUDE**

**God Will Answer Prayer - Crosby**

Portions of the service have been adapted from: **Signs-in-the-Moon One: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent C**, written by Stephanie Dorsey, chaplain resident at York Hospital in York, PA, and from Life In Liturgy.



**Live stream can be found at:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/gracetown/live>

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday:	7 pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath on Zoom
Tuesday:	9 am-noon	Tuesday Crew meets here to do work on our building and grounds. You are welcome to join in!
Wednesday:	9am-noon	Office Hours
	10 am	Yoga in the MPR
	1:30 pm	Combined Missions and Evangelism/Outreach Team Mtg in E&C Room
	7 pm	Consistory in E&C Room
Friday	9am-noon	Office Hours
Sunday	9:15 am	Adult Sunday School - Café Conversations in HeBrews Café
	After Worship	Women's Christmas Lunch
	6 pm	Caroling - Meet at the Church

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Our acolyte for today is **Chase Thompson** and **Michelle Hutcherson** is helping lead worship as our liturgist.

Altar flowers are presented by **Pam Wilson** in honor of everyone's birthday.

Lighting our Advent Wreath is the **Skeggs family**.

**Dave Forman** and **Mike Pirogowicz** are serving as our Livestream Technicians, **Jim Lynn** as Sanctuary Technician and **Tom DeFrance** as musician and accompanist.