

Spring Hill United Church of Christ

December 1, 2019

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Acolyte—Riley Bradley

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER ~Lilly Browning

One: As we enter this sacred season, we gather around this wreath and light the first candle of Advent. With this candle we remember the source of our Hope for peace and rekindle our imagination for the work of justice. Let us pray:

All: **Holy God, you come into the world as the ruler of peace! Come into our lives again and fill us with your hope. In your presence inspire us to work for that day when your justice and peace will be plain for all to see. In the name of the light of the world we pray. Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God has made us glad to be here today.

All: **The joy of God is written on the faces of the people!**

One: Within each heart, God has placed words of forgiving love and welcome.

All: **Let us celebrate and be joyful for all that God has done for us.**

***Gathering Hymn “How Shall I Receive You”**

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION IN UNISON (please be seated)

God of Amazing Surprises, we are rushing headlong into this season of buying, giving, greed, and struggle. We want to think of the holiday as delightful, but we have a tendency to make it a time of the highest stress. We over-schedule our time, overdraw our resources, ignore those moments in which we could just relax and have quiet time with our families and with you. We blame it on everything else but our own decision making. We speak of obligations, of the need to be constantly busy, of the pressure to purchase things to make people happy. The reality is that your love should be our foundation, the base from which we celebrate. Our watchfulness is not necessarily about what is to happen, but rather should be in the ways in which we order our lives, ways that block out your love and your healing power. Forgive us for our stubborn *insistence on maintaining schedule rather than focusing on your love. Heal us. Strengthen us and make us watchful over our faith in you. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE IN UNISON

We watch and wait. God is bringing us new hope and peace. It is a gift, given especially for us – one we cannot earn – it’s a Gift. Praise be to the Giver of All Great Gifts, our God. Amen.

The Hebrew Bible Lesson Isaiah 2: 1-5 (CEB)

Special Music "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
arr. P. Liebergen

Time with the Children and the Child Within

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Choral Response "Cares Chorus"

***I cast all my cares upon You, I lay all of my burdens down at
Your feet. And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon You.***

Morning Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Linda Matthews, Flute arr. C. Brown

****Response*** *Doxology*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heaven'ly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)*

With thanksgiving and joy, we have returned to You a portion of the blessings You have given to us. Bless us and our gifts for Your purposes.

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 24: 36-44 (CEB)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Word Interpreted

Rev. Robin DeAngelis

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Call and Invitation to Communion

Communion Prayer

Words of Remembrance

The Blessing of the Children

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ; from child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom. We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen.

**Sending Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" #117*

**Benediction*

**Postlude*

"Wachet Auf"

J.S. Bach

**please rise in body or spirit*