

Worship Service on December 10, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Dottie Sundquist

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Cookie Sale and the Christmas Coffeehouse yesterday!

Today ~ Cathy Comar has our regular giving envelopes ready for the coming year, with more boxes if you would like to have one. There is also a special card that you can use to indicate what you feel led to give for church building preservation.

Tonight ~ There is a free Christmas Concert at the First Congregational Church this afternoon at 4 pm, with refreshments afterward.

Tuesday ~ Prayer Group will meet via zoom at 7 pm and then discuss Chapters 3 & 4 in *When God Comes Down*.

Wednesday ~ The Seeking God Together Group will meet via zoom at 11 am.

~ Women Who Pray will meet at Tatiana's home at 2 pm and discuss Miriam and Deborah from their book.

~ Meeting for Church Preservation committee at 7 pm via zoom.

Thursday ~ The Prudential Committee will meet at church and via zoom at 5 pm.

~ We will have choir practice at 7 pm at the church.

Saturday ~ Men's Breakfast Meeting at 9 am at the church.

~ We're forming a Christmas Caroling group at church at 1:30 pm. If you're interested in a visit from the carolers please let Pastor Rebecca know.

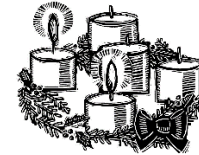
Looking ahead ~ If you would like to bring a poinsettia in loving memory of someone, please have them to church by December 17th and share the dedication information for the bulletin.

Food Cupboard ~ Thank you to all who are helping to serve food to our neighbors!

Thank you to Jim and Barb West for the flowers in loving memory of Barb's mother, Miriam Wertman.

Mission Moment ~ Matthew Sommons will give an update on FBC Missions.

Lighting the Candle of Peace



Choir Song ~ "A Song for Advent"

Call to Worship ~ **Isaiah 11:1-6 (TLB)** read by Dottie Sundquist. Please join in reading the bold lines.

¹ The royal line of David will be cut off,

chopped down like a tree;

but from the stump will grow a Shoot—

yes, a new Branch from the old root.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might;

the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

³ **His delight will be obedience to the Lord.**

He will not judge by appearance, false evidence, or hearsay,

⁴ **but will defend the poor and the exploited.**

He will rule against the wicked who oppress them.

⁵ **For he will be clothed with fairness and with truth.**

⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will lie down together,

and the leopard and goats will be at peace.

Calves and fat cattle will be safe among lions,

and a little child shall lead them all.

Song ~ “When God is a Child” (#132, blue)

*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***

*Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth
Giving a promise of safety and worth (Refrain)*

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn
Telling the world that the Savior is born (Refrain)*

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart
Jesus has come and will never depart (Refrain)*

Words ~ Brian Wren Music ~ Joan Collier Fogg | Hope Publishing, 1989

Praying Together ~

**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**

Song ~ “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (# 160, blue hymnal)

*Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung
It came a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night*

*Isaiah ‘twas foretold it
The rose I have in mind
With Mary we behold it
The virgin mother kind
To show God’s love aright
She bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night*

German Carol with Traditional Melody | Public Domain

Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca

Scripture Text ~ Luke 1:5-25 (NIV) read by Dottie Sundquist

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy,
God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph,
a descendant of David.

The virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said,
“Greetings, you who are highly favored!
The Lord is with you.”

(Continued on the next page)

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words
and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
³⁰ But the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.
³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son,
and you are to call him Jesus.
³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever;
his kingdom will never end.”
³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”
³⁵ The angel answered,
“The Holy Spirit will come on you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age,
and she who was said to be unable to conceive
is in her sixth month.
³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”
³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.
“May your word to me be fulfilled.”
Then the angel left her.

Sermon~ “Unlikely Peace” ~ Rev. Rebecca Sommons

Song ~

“Hope of Israel”

*In Bethlehem one holy night
A host of angels filled the sky
They sang to tell the world who waits
Our Savior comes this Christmas Day*

Chorus

***God is with us Christ our Savior
Jesus our Emmanuel
He shall reign our King forever
The hope of Israel***

*The wise men traveled from afar
They followed close a shining star
With costly gifts before Him lay
Our King was born this Christmas Day*

Chorus

*Peace on earth goodwill to men
Let violence and all hatred end
For born to us the Prince of Peace
This Christmas Day our song shall be*

Chorus two times

You're the hope of Israel

CCLI Song # 7139739

Ben Fielding | Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Reuben Morgan

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Benediction ~ from Luke 1:78-79

**“May the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun has come to us from heaven
shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”**