

# First Congregational Church of Tallmadge UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM

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

## WELCOME

The chimes call us to a time of worship

**Greeting** Liturgist

**Prelude** "Joy to the World" - G.F. Handel/Page

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Introit

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

Congregation: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: As we have gathered here to worship,

let us stand and greet one another in the

love of Christ.

(Please stand.)

## \*Gathering Song

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## \*Call to Worship Liturgist

One: Lord, we are ready and waiting!

All: The tree might not be perfect, the gifts may not be

wrapped, the house is still a mess, but

Lord, we are ready!

One: The earth cries out for a savior, and we are waiting for

love to be born.

All: All is not calm, all is not bright ... we are so ready for

love to live among us in the flesh.

One: Come as you are, says the Lord. Arise and shine, for your

light is coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus. We may not be prepared, but we

are ready. Let your light of love shine in the darkness.

# \*Opening Hymn

"All Earth is Hopeful" #163 vs 1-2 (words and music on the following pages)

## \*Opening Prayer Liturgist

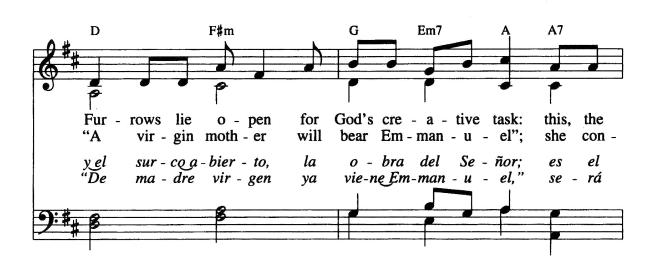
Gather us as beloved family in your presence, Lord. May the light of your love stand at the center as a reminder of all that we have and all that we are; may the same light carry us out to the world with love for all. Amen.

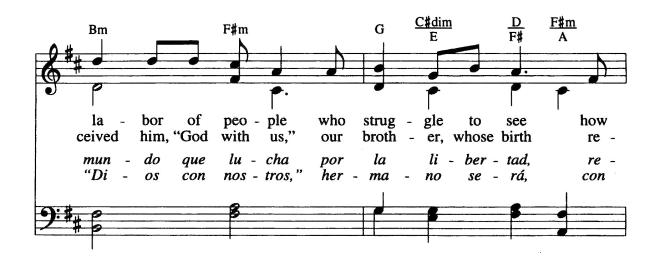
### 163

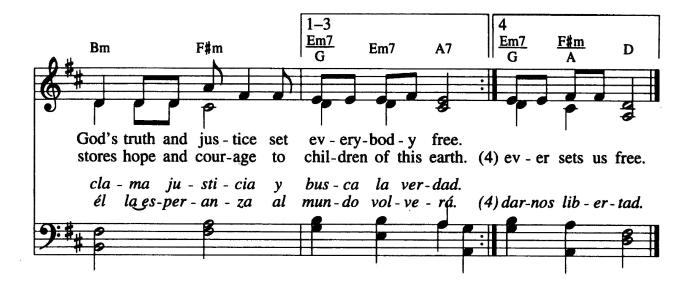
## All Earth Is Hopeful

#### Toda la Tierra









- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
  This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.
- 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
- 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Anthem

"African Advent Carol" - Barrett

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Percussion: Sam Farabee

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

# A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US/ ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Children's Message Wendy Brown

## **WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD**

Naming our Prayers before God Moments of Silent Prayer Pastoral Prayer w/ Lord's Prayer (using debts/ debtors)

Anthem "Christmas Joy" - Karen Crane
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Percussion: Sam Farabee

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

### HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

## Scripture Lessons

#### FIRST LESSON Matthew 1.18-25 NRSV

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

**Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD** 

# \*Hymn of Preparation "Body of God" - Convergence Music Project

"Body of God" - Convergence Music Project (Words and music on the following pages.)

#### Sermon

"Calling All Angels: The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

- Rev. Daniel Doty

#### Body of God

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan



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2 Body of God



# Special Music

"Love Came Down" - Huntsinger

© 2004 Huntsinger Music (BMI), a division of DBH Creative Group, Inc. All rights reserved. #11602506 Duet: Rev. Daniel Doty and Erin Hoffman

## THE OFFERING

## Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" with

"Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring"

- Traditional Polish Carol & J.S. Bach/Page Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson © 2012 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP) All rights reserved. CCLI #11602506

(Please stand.)

# \*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. Amen.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

God does not desire us to bring burnt offerings and sin offerings, but instead asks that we do God's will. So we bring to God now the offerings of our lives and our labors, with the prayer that God's will may be done through them.

## WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

\*Closing Hymn

"All Earth is Hopeful" #163 vs 3-4 (words and music on pages 3-4)

\*Benediction

## \*Congregation Response

"Go now in peace, never be afraid God will go with you, each hour of every day. Go now in peace, in faith and in love."

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

**Postlude** "In Dulci Jubilo" - arr. Laubengayer

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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#### THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team: Scott Newcomer, Anne Pertick, Diana Fiocca, Ann Hagan

Liturgist: Dave Hawley

Ushers: Don Simmons, Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer

Greeters: Mark and Cathleen Clark

Special Music: Sam Farabee, Erin Hoffman, Dan Doty

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#### THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. Bless be God who did not requse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm 66:20

Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley

The Birch Family

Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)

Steve Burr Jim Caplinger

Scott and Connie Carter (relatives of Rev. Ed & Carol

Carter)

Diane Drummond

Debbie Fickes

Eleanor Hall

Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally and Donna At-

wood)

Alleen Hilbish

Karenbauer Family (Suzy Klush)

Zell Lambert

Roberta Lewis

Michael Liggett (brother of Terri Poff)

Mary Martin (friend of Joe Labay)

Julian Mendes (classmate of Lt. Spear)

Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)

Lynn Norton

David and Jackie Parker

Marie O'Neil

LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)

Heather Read (Ronda's daughter)

Roger (friend of Wally Atwood)

Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)

Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)

Jeff Sullivan

Mikey Tonsky

John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)

**Richard Thomason** 

Kaitlyn Wetter (Kesters' granddaughter)

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

Make plans now to celebrate the birth of Christ with your church family at First Congregational AND invite friends and neighbors!!!





It has been the tradition of First Congregational Church to receive a Christmas Eve offering and divide equally between two ministry partners. Half is given to a local ministry partner and the second half is given to The Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ.

The Christmas Fund (formerly the Veterans of the Cross Fund) has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

The local ministry partner we will gift half of the Christmas Eve offering will be Dare 2 Share. Dare 2 Share provides weekend meals in a backpack to kids in need 12 months a year. The program is a collaboration of the Tallmadge Rotary Club, the Tallmadge City Schools and the Tallmadge United Methodist Church.

Come and worship with your FCC family this Christmas Eve and give generously to support these two ministry partners!



# BRING YOUR NATIVITY SET TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We invite you to bring a nativity piece to the Christmas Eve service. We are going to create our own nativity during the Christmas Eve service. If you would like to participate, please bring one of the following; Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Shepherd, Angel or Animal. There will be a time to bring them up to the altar during the service.

Our Church Office will be closed

Dec. 25-Jan 3rd.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries* 

IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm Friday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

85 HERITAGE DR | TALLMADGE, OH 44278