



**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:

Congregation:

Leader:

Our help is in the name of the Holy One,
who made heaven and earth.

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.

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la Tierra

Unison

D $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ A7

1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:

1 To-da la tier-ra es-per-ra al Sal-va-dor
 2 Di-ce el pro-fe-ta al pueb-lo de Is-ra-el:

D F#m G Em7 A A7

Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-

y el sur-co a-bier-to, la o-bra del Se-ñor; es el
 "De ma-dre vir-gen ya vie-ne Em-man-u-el," se-rá

Bm F#m G $\frac{C\#dim}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{F\#m}{A}$

la-lor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-

mun-do que lu-cha por la li-ber-tad, re-
 "Di-os con nos-tros," her-ma-no se-rá, con

God's truth and jus - tice set ev - ery - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth. (4) ev - er sets us free.

cla - ma ju - sti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad.
 él la es - per - an - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá. (4) dar - nos lib - er - tad.

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

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

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

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ 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
(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

D A

God break-ing through to our lives But this is no great sur-prise
 Sure was a mar-vel-ous night The stor-y of birth and new life And the

G D/F# A#°7 Bm Em7 G Asus4

Bab-ies and barns, green fields and farms: This is the bod-y of God
 dreams and the fears of the new par-ents' prayers were felt in the bod-y of God

D A

Star in the dark sky we share Straw un-der-foot as we look up and stare Each
 Just one more beau-ti-ful way God's bod-y blooms its ar-ray

G D/F# A#°7 Bm Em7 A

part of cre-a-tion a per-fect form-a-tion that lives as the bod-y of
 Our Christ-mas stor-y, one i-mage of glor-y As we move in the bod-y of

D G D/F# G A

God Where else would God be but right here? In-with-and-through all we
 God Where else would God be but right here? Tran-scen-dent and cos-mic and at

D G D/F# G D/F# G D/F#

sense and we feel God in the man-ger, God in the cows, God in the inn-keep-er's
 home in our tears God in the com-mon, God in the strange, God in Je-sus ver-y

A#°7 Bm A G

raised eye-brows
 first dia-per change

After second verse, optional interlude of *Silent Night*
 before continuing to final verse.

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D A

These are un - set - tl - ing times And as I put my son down for the night I

G D/F# G D/F# G D/F#

can't help but think how much kind - er we'd be if we knew all of life, the

A#7 Bm Em7 G A G

world's ev-'ry plight to be part of the bod-y of God Where else would God be but right

D/F# G A D G D/F#

here? Un - der our nose - s, in the midst of our fears God in our stor-ies,

G D/F# G D/F# A#7 Bm A G

God in the world, God in the pain and the Good News we've heard

G D/F# G D/F# G D/F# G D/F#

God in the man-ger, God in the cows, God in the com-mon, God in the strange,

G D/F# G D/F# G D/F# A#7 Bm

God in our stor-ies, God in the world, God in the pain and the Good News we've heard

A G D

Special Music

“Love Came Down” - Huntsinger

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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

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(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 refuse 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 Atwood)

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!!!



“...THE
GLORY OF
GOD SHONE
AROUND THEM...”

LUKE 2:9



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

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