

Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ



An Open and Affirming Congregation The Reverend Amelia Edson Serving Christ and Community since 1754





THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

If you are new to worship, welcome and please fill out a blue visitor card. Throughout the order of worship, if the print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please remain in your seat while passing the peace of Christ.)

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ORGAN PRELUDE "Lo. How

"Lo, How a Rose E'r Blooming"

John G. Barr

SAYING YES TO GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

All: Come, O God, and help us to say yes to Hope.

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Projected

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: When Mary was with child the world viewed her with suspicion.

All: We admit that we, too, struggle to believe other's truths, and even silence the knowledge of our own hearts.

One: As Joseph and Mary searched for a place to shelter, the world closed its doors.

All: We confess that we, too, close ourselves off from the suffering of this world, choosing apathy over empathy and ignorance over engagement.

One: When Jesus was born the powerful attacked his family, trying to stamp out the hope he promised.

All: We realize that we, too, participate in systems that oppress the vulnerable. We, too, are afraid to fully embrace the hope that God offers us.

One: Emmanuel, God with us, forgive us our trespasses and open our hearts.

All: So that on Christmas Day we will be ready to receive you in our midst, and our lives may reflect the Christmas Story.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us remember: Christ came to earth so that we might remember our true selves and God's love.

All: There is nothing we can do, think, or say, that can separate us from God in Christ Jesus.

One: Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" No. 125

SCRIPTURE Matthew 24:36-44 Laurie Davis

SERMON

*HYMN "People Look East" No. 142, vs. 1 & 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY "Every Valley" John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 638

Christians all, your Lord is coming
Hope for peace is now at hand
Let there be no hesitation
Walk in faith where life demands
Bear the word that God has given
Share the birth that stirs your soul
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ will come and make you whole.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Fantasy on 'Hyfrydol'" Mark Thallander (Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus)

Thank you to our worship participants:

Presiding: Rev. Amelia Edson

Minister of Music: Jan Stover

Ushers: Kim Hendry, Steve Hendry

Liturgist: Laurie Davis
Advent Lighters: The Reid Family

Online Worship: Virginia Eddy, Tom Stegemann, Jack Gervais

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Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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^{*} Please stand in body or spirit