

Falmouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ An Open and Affirming Congregation



10:00 AM



GATHERING MUSIC

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

Ray Cornils

Arr. Leo Sowerby

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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.

PRELUDE

"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People" by Gerald Near Ray Cornils

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE¹

The Pond Family

One: God of Peace, we pray for our world so full of war and rumors of war

All: Give us courage to become warriors for peace,

One: To make peace, to protect peace, to be peace

All: God of Shalom, let us prepare our hearts and world for Your advent.

The second candle is lit, symbolizing Peace.

All: May we be people of peace, in our homes, our community, our world.

One: Come, Prince of Peace, Come.

PRAYER OF 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.

¹ Call to Worship inspired our 2021 Advent devotional, *Advent in Full Color*, which is available in Fellowship Hall

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 be testaments of the Christmas Story.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us remember: Christ came to earth so that we might be redeemed.

All: There is nothing we can do, think, or say, that can separate us from our God who loves us.

One: Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

HYMN "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:1-18 Mark Horton

THE SERMON Rev. Edson

ANTHEM "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" Chancel Choir

Michael Praetorius

THE FEAST OF COMMUNION

PREFACE

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to offer thanks and praise

RETELLING THE STORY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER SUNG

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.

THE OFFERTORY

HYMN "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn" Chancel Choir

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go in Peace"

POSTLUDE "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" Ray Cornils
Georg Boehm

Thank you to our worship participants:

Presiding: The Rev. Amelia Edson, Settled Pastor

Music: Ray Cornils

Ushers: Jim Parr & Carol Kauffman

Kids' Church: Kristen Tripp Liturgist: Mark Horton

Communion Helpers: Steve & Kim Hendry

Online Worship: Virginia Eddy, Tom Stegemann, Jack Gervais

Next Sunday's Lectionary

Zeph 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

^{*} Musical material is presented under CCLI License #1117602
If you are new to worship, welcome and please fill out a blue visitor card. Throughout the order of worship, if print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.