



Falmouth Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
The Reverend Amelia Edson
Serving Christ and Community since 1754



10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022



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 Jennie Stephens & Jan Stover
Piano Duets

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.

PRELUDE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” arr. Kevin McChesney
Bell Choir

SAYING YES TO GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Candle Lighter: Come, O God, and help us to say yes to Love.

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 4

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

Children are invited to join our Director of Youth and Family Programs, Hannah Daly, for Kids' Church downstairs. Kids' Church meets until 12, with an optional early pick-up at 11.

***HYMN** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" No. 150

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25 Marilee Beinema

SERMON Rev. Amelia Edson

BAPTISM (Insert)

***HYMN** "What Child is This" No. 162

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY "Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" African-American
Chancel Choir Spiritual / arr. Lloyd Larsen

***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

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

† Musical material is presented under CCLI License #1117602

* *Please stand in body or spirit*



Next Sunday's Lectionary

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12); John 1:1-14

Thank you to our worship participants:

Presiding:	Rev. Amelia Edson
Minister of Music:	Jan Stover
Ushers:	Jim Parr & Nancy Wulbrecht
Liturgist:	Marilee Beinema
Advent Lighters:	The Pond Family
Online Worship:	Virginia Eddy, Tom Stegemann, Jack Gervais