

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451

Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor

Sandy Carter, Organist

November 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Christ Is Coming" - J. MacDuff

CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)

Watch! Wait! The time of God is at hand. Like a bud on a tree, God's possibilities are about to burst forth. Stay awake! For the reign of God is very near. We are here my sisters and brothers, watching and waiting with hope. May God's presence come upon us this very day to grace us and affirm us as children of the light.

***HYMN** "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" (insert)

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

O God, this Advent season is a time when Your light radiates throughout the world. Inasmuch as we can, let us shine brightly for You. Fill us with Your light as if we were lighthouses on the shore. Use us to guide others and keep them safe from danger. Set us aflame with Your light and love as if we were candles, even in a storm. Enable us to burn steadily with Your fiery Spirit of Hope and to transform all forms of darkness. Be present with us, dear God, throughout this Advent season as we live and worship in our waiting for the One who is the light of the world. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64: 1-9 page 606

CHOIR ANTHEM "Bring Us Hope" - Ruth Schram

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

UNISON PRAYER (whole congregation)

Dear God, help us to carry the light of hope in our hearts. This Advent, help us to prepare our lives to receive the living presence of the One who said, "I am the light of the world." Amen

CHORAL RESPONSE "Hope, Hope, Hope" - Trad. Austrian Melody

PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER "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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

OFFERTORY (We will not actually take up an offering, however we request that you leave your contributions in the basket on your way out or mail them to Vi Scott as you have been doing.)

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13: 24-37 page 826

MESSAGE "And Yet There Is Hope" – Rich Fournier

***HYMN** "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" No. 483 (vs. 1 & 3)

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** "Come, Lord Jesus" - A. L. Page

***POSTLUDE**

*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

Announcements

Rich and the Worship and Spiritual Life Committee met, and it was decided that we will not be having a Christmas Eve service at all this year. It would not be safe to do all of that singing and passing of the light around the circle doing the traditional candle lighting ceremony with the possibility of large numbers of people in attendance. We will be doing the lighting of the Advent Candles each of the 4 Sundays of Advent during the usual Sunday Morning worship service, and folks at home on ZOOM may decide to light candles with us, if they choose to do so. The Sunday after Christmas, December 27th, during the normal Sunday morning worship service we will complete the lighting of the Advent Candles with the lighting of the Christ candle, as we usually do on Christmas Eve. We will also do some of the readings and sing many of the Christmas carols that are usually sung. This way the folks that have been attending church in person can sing the songs with the choir, and the folks at home can choose to sing along or just listen to the music. After discussing many options, it was decided that this was the best solution.

If you have any announcements or prayer requests please call Anita or email them to her by 9:00 P.M. Saturday (413-625-6481 or CandAupright@hotmail.com). She will type them up and give them to Rich to read from the pulpit so everyone at home on Zoom or worshipping in person can hear them. This helps the service to run more smoothly and eliminates having to repeat announcements or prayer requests.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

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