

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

December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Christ Is Coming" - J. MacDuff

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Pastor: The glory of God shall be revealed.

People: And all flesh shall see it together.

***HYMN** "Heralds of Christ" No. 488 (vs. 1 & 4)

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We are making ready Lord. Our hearts are hillsides listening. Our minds are hastening footsteps. Our bodies are cradles. Our whole beings are raised in expectation. And unto Thee be glory, O Word made flesh, in whose peace we yearn to dwell, in whose mercy we are revitalized, and in whose love we are embraced forever. Help us to be a people ready to receive your presence and radiate it in encouraging ways to others. Prepare us to bear your light and peace in these fearful and confusing times. And help us to trust that you are the center in which all things hold together when we keep our focus and trust in the Christ Spirit. Amen

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40: 1-11 pages 581-582

CHOIR ANTHEM "Prepare for the Coming of the Lord" - L. Larson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

UNISON PRAYER (whole congregation)

Dear God, help us to carry Peace in our hearts. A Peace, not as the world gives, but only as the Christ Child can bring. This Advent, help us to prepare our lives to receive the presence of the One who said: "My Peace I give to you." Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Peace, Peace, Peace" - 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 request that you leave your contributions in the basket on your way out or mail them to Vi Scott as you have been doing.)

HANDBELLS - "Dona Nobis Pacem" - arr. by Karen L. Buckwalter

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1: 1-8 page 812

MESSAGE "Preparing a Way in the Wilderness" – Rich Fournier

***HYMN** "Comfort, Comfort O My People" (insert)

*BENEDICTION

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

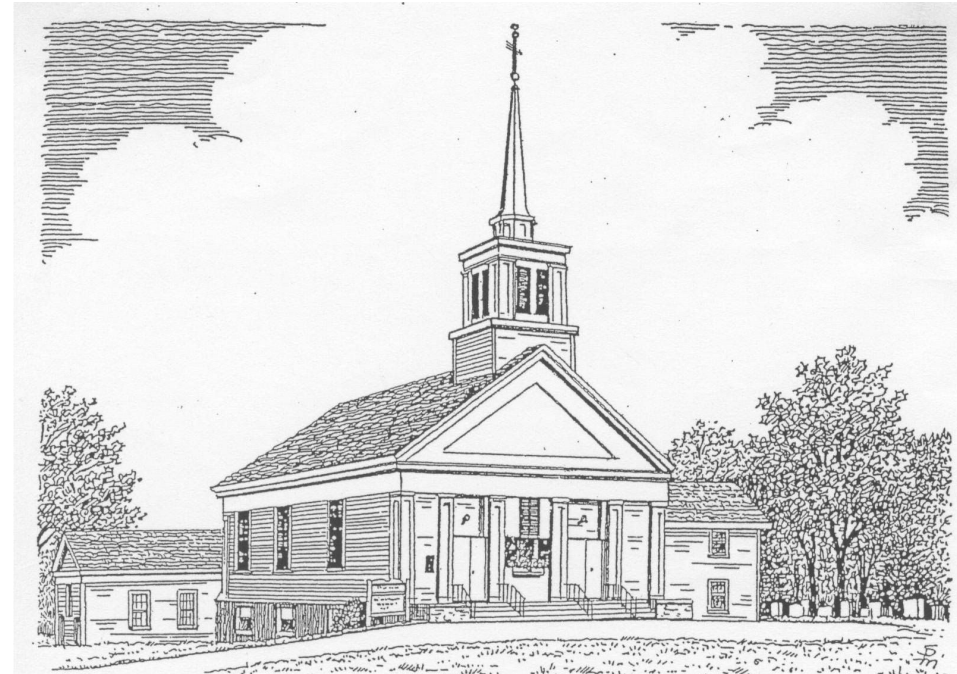
*POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

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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