

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 13, 2020 - Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Christ Is Coming" - J. MacDuff

CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel. For God has visited and redeemed all people. To give light to those who sit in darkness, and to guide our feet onto the way of peace.

***HYMN** "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" No. 120 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Clamorous, O Lord, is this season of thy birth, this snowfall air with heaven's love in it, this darkened time with more than love ablaze in it, this age of bickering and confusion, suddenly abound with peace, these days abrim with walls atumbling, this century upon its knees, the glimpses of eternity. What word shall tell of our heart's adoration? O Mystery, let us but kneel in the mind's dark, in the body's rush, in the soul's receptiveness and hear the Christ Spirit being born.

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11 pages 603 & 604

CHOIR ANTHEM

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

UNISON PRAYER (whole congregation)

Dear God, help us to carry Joy in our hearts. A Joy that comes from knowing of your great love for us as shown by the gift of the birth of Jesus. Help us to share the Joy of the good news with others by our words and deeds. Teach us to embrace and appreciate joyful moments that come each day. Amen

CHORAL RESPONSE "Joy, Joy, Joy" - 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.)

SCRIPTURE READING John 1: 6-8, 19-28 page 862

MESSAGE "Jesus and John and the Spirit" – Rich Fournier

***HYMN** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" No. 102

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**

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

Announcements

The beautiful flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Rose Mollison given by Doug and Penny.

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.

A reminder that Committees' and Officers' written reports for the year 2020 are due by Sunday, January 10th. Reports may be left at the church on the table in the entryway, on Willis's porch, or emailed to Judy Willis at judywillis56@gmail.com. Copies of reports will be available to members on January 17th. Details are being worked out for the Annual Meeting.

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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