

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 20, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Christ Is Coming! Lift Your Eyes" - St. George's Tune

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us celebrate Christmas in the Spirit of Christ who came to us from the heart of God's own being, and entered into the hearts of humanity.

People: Like Jesus, we would seek in this season more to give than to receive, more to love than to be loved.

Pastor: We celebrate God's entering into our lives in human form, to bring light to all the world.

**People: May we lift up our voices to join the angel chorus:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to all."**

***HYMN** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" No. 104 (vs. 1 & 2)

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dear God, for whatever in us reaches for Your coming, we rejoice in Your name. Praise for the fir tree and the candled dark. Praise for the hush and crunch on snow. Praise for the hidden hopes and the bold surprise. Praise for the shepherd's crook, three kings, Mary's heart and Joseph's dream. Praise for the bells and chimes and voices ringing out in song. Praise for God's holy child tabernacled within our flesh, Your Word addressed to all of us, and Your alleluia in our hearts. Amen

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE Luke 1: 26-38 page 831

CHOIR ANTHEM "Amid the Cold of Winter" - Arr. by B. Rhoades

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - LOVE

UNISON PRAYER (whole congregation)

Dear God, we are thankful for Your Love which came to us in the birth of Jesus. We pray that this Love may be born anew, and find rest in the manger of our hearts. Help us to nurture that Love until it grows strong, and we can feel it fully and share it generously with others. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Love, Love, Love" - 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 Luke 1: 39-45 page 831

MESSAGE "Where the Christ Spirit Finds a Home" – Rich Fournier

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 100 (vs. 1 & 3)

*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. 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. 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.

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.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

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