

# MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

First Sunday of Advent Worship · Sacred Time · November 27, 2022

*We begin our Advent journey by emphasizing the gift of being awake  
to the “now” ... the gift of sacred time with God, with each other,  
and with those in need of hope.*



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*The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Pam Cochrane

**PRELUDE**

Jon Gaines

**REFLECTING THE SACRED**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Living God, upon this moment, upon this people, upon this place,  
The holy comes. And sacred knowing brings sacred being  
for sacred doing of God's plan.**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE** (responsive)

One: We pray for Hope this day.

**All: We pray for Hope this day.**

One: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

**All: We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

One: We open to see each moment

**All: We open to see each moment**

One: as a gift of holy presence

**All: as a gift of holy presence**

One: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery

**All: This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,  
lighting the way to hope.**

One: Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Hope,  
We give thanks for this holy moment together.

As we take in the hope you offer, may we be a reflection of you light,  
expanding the sacred time of "right now"  
into the sacred time of "always and for all time."

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

*When God Is a Child*

Words: Brian Wren

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
Leading us on till the morning is bright.**

Music: Joan C. Fogg

**CHORUS: When God is a child, there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.**

**\*HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Red No. 103

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

Rev. Pam Cochrane

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Romans 13:11-14 & Matthew 24:36-44

Faith Bertrand  
Pew Bible pgs. 987; 859

**ANTHEM** *O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort* Johann W. Franck; arr. Carl Stein

**MESSAGE** *"The Mirror Ball"* Rev. Pam Cochrane

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Rev. Douglas Vooyo

**\*LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)**

**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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Shout for Joy, Ye People!* Music: Victor Johnson  
Words: Joseph Martin

**\*DOXOLOGY** Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red No.64

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*HYMN** *Prepare Our Hearts* Tune: ST. THEODULPH  
Words: Charles N. Gross

Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;  
Behold we now God's promise, a dawning for our day.  
Your son of hope for shining, declare our Advent praise.  
Impart your hope as now we wait, a weary world to raise.

All highest peace and glory, we need you, Lord of life,  
To guide us in thy wisdom, to save us in our strife.  
Your promise ever bold and new, in you we dare believe;  
Your kingdom come, O Prince of Peace, prepare us to receive.

The promised gift we worship, to us a love was sent;  
Continue now your promise, Emmanuel's Advent.  
Again within this season, prepare our hearts for birth;  
May love be now our offering, our best gift here on earth.

(continued on back)

In joy abounds our Advent faith, built on an empty tomb;  
 The Christ-Child enters all hearts prepared to make him room.  
 Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;  
 Your promise may we now behold, to dawn upon our day.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Jon Gaines

*The flowers this Sunday are given in loving memory of  
 Peter & Anna Amerena  
 Given by Marie Cooper*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of  
 Kim Hersey  
 Given by Dana Hersey*

**Sunday's Servants:**

Scripture Reader: Faith Bertrand

Ushers: Casey Brennan, Marie Cooper, & Priscilla Curda



Welcome! If you are here for the first time, please fill out a connection card and place it in the offering plate. We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors. No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!

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