

St. John's UCC, Fullerton



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*We Worship, We Love, We Serve -
No Matter What!*

**December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent**

St. John's UCC, Fullerton
2nd Sunday of Advent - December 5, 2021

~ We Worship ~

The Season of Advent invites us to the great anticipation of God's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to be fully realized in our present experience. As we wait for the coming Christ Child, we hear the call of the prophets to prepare the way and make our lives ready. Today, our theme is Peace, and we invite you to experience God's peace anew with us in worship.

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Music to Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Prelude

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Wilbur
Held

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Call to Worship

One: Righteous one! Equitable one!

All: Refining one! Delightful one!

One: Blessed one! Redeeming one!

All: One-of-flesh to save all flesh!

One: Emmanuel, One of us –

All: Praise be your coming!

*Opening Hymn

"Heralds of Christ"

Public Domain

Heralds of Christ

Trumpets, before each stanza

1. Her - alds of Christ, who bear the King's com -
 2. Through des - ert ways, dark fen, and deep mo -
 3. Lord, give us faith and strength the road to

mands, im - mor - tal tid - ings in your mor - tal hands,
 rass, through jun - gles, slug - gish seas, and moun - tain pass,
 build, to see the prom - ise of the day ful - filled,

pass on and car - ry swift the news you bring;
 build now the road, and fal - ter not, nor stay;
 when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease

make straight, make straight the high - way of the King.
 pre - pare a - cross the earth the King's high - way.
 up - on the high - way of the Prince of Peace.

WORDS: Laura S. Copenhagen, 1915
 MUSIC: George W. Warren, 1894

NATIONAL HYMN
 10 10.10 10

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Linda Powell & Wayne Lichtenwalner

Hymn

“We Lift the Light of Hope”

**We lift the light of peace, O God, the Lord of truth and right.
In Your domain let justice reign and bring us peace in Christ.
In Your domain let justice reign and bring us peace in Christ.**

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Prayer of Confession

From UCC Worship Ways

One: O God. You have promised to make pathways straight so your people may walk in joyful safety. But in our arrogance, we create dangerous roads, secret ways based on privilege, which suit human standards, not yours.

All: Forgive us.

One: You promise a way of justice and equity so that all may dwell in peace. But the valley between rich and poor has become an impassable chasm: We punish the poor. We make them sicker. We make them hungrier.

All: Forgive us.

One: God, you rescued your children from the hands of their oppressors and called all of them to delight in your glory on the level path which leads home. But we oppress our siblings, claiming “crooked” means not straight, not white, not male, not cis.

All: Forgive us for these corruptions of your good Word. Come again! Make our hearts alive with your truth! Amen.

(Time for Silent prayer.)

Words of Assurance

Rev. Davis

One: Hear this gracious promise: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God, who sees our flaws and loves us into being better.

Children's Message

"Advent and Peace"

*During the Advent Season, please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

*Scripture Reading: Luke 3: 1-4

Nancy Bowman

Sermon

Rev. Steven Davis

Advent Through the Lens of Hollywood

"PEACE ~ The Redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge"
(A Christmas Carol)

Chancel Choir "You Came, Lord Jesus, to This Place"

Kenneth T. Kosche

DonnaLee Yeatts, Finger Cymbals

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

The 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.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And 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

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Unison

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is
called Em-man - u - el. God with us,
re-vealed in us, his name is called Em-man-u - el.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob McGee (1944-)

Words and Music © 1976 C. A. Music (Admin. Music Services)

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God

(If you would like to share your secure electronic donation,
you may “Text to Give” at 844-935-3593
or go to the church website and click on Donate.
Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness
in supporting the ministry of St. John’s UCC!)

*Doxology

#780

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

*Prayer of Dedication

**Covenantal God, we live into your promise
to make our rough ways smooth with each gift we grow,
with each talent we sand, with each act we polish.
We have not smoothed our ways yet, hopeful One,
but with your continuing guidance, we will yet, O God.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: We gather at your holy table, O God, and join in communion with all your people and prophets of old who have looked for a better age to come. With your people in this age, still we look for the day when your peace will prevail. In this meal, we pray for the peace we find through your Son, Emmanuel, your presence with us.

All: At the table, we find the Christ, your Son who came to be among us. Through him, O God, may we come to know your never-ending peace.

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing the Meal (All receive together as the Pastor leads.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy and restoring God, you have shared these gifts and sent your Spirit to renew us as the body of Christ; from our frantic lives to your peace-filled presence; from our chaos to your calm, from our hesitation and holding back to your wholeness and generosity. We thank you for this time of remembrance. Increase our faith, help us to love as you love and encourage us to follow the example of Jesus, God with us. In the name of the Christ we pray. Amen.

~ We Serve ~

*Hymn "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

**Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:
Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sin you prized, yield your life to God's control.**

**Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor;
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store.**

**With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways un-trod,
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.**

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*The Benediction

Postlude "Fantasia on Savior of the Nations Come"
Craig A. Penfield

Serving Today in Worship Leadership:

Music Director and Organist – Gail Hanzl
Worship Tech – Michelle Gutekunst
Acolyte – Madison Berg
Ushers – Sharon antrim, Amy Feidler, Donna Held, and Margaret Young

Serving Next Week in Worship Leadership:

Music Director and Organist – Gail Hanzl
Worship Tech – Michelle Gutekunst
Acolyte – Nathaniel Kuhns
Ushers – Colleen Kulhamer, Carol Raszler, and Sandra Nagy

Church Calendar for the Week of Dec. 5-11, 2021

Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Confirmation Class
Monday	6:15 pm	Jubilation Choir
	7:00 pm	Handbell Choir
Tuesday	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship & Finance Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 pm	“Fun” Raising Meeting
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir
Thursday	7:00 pm	Mission Meeting
Saturday	9:30 am	Zumba



Altar flowers placed on December 5, 2021

In memory of Marguerite B. Oswald by the Gilbert family.

In Our Prayers: Please remember all our sick, shut-ins and those in our area hospitals in your prayers.

Also remember those Serving in our Armed Forces:

E4 Colin Haydt

Chief Petty Officer Jacob Smith

Fun Raising Highlights

- **Filling Sale** made with REAL potatoes. Extras are available for \$7.00 for a 2 lb. container and are currently frozen. There are some with and without onions remaining in the freezer. See Cheryl Weaver if interested.
- **WAWA Hoagie Certificates** are back. \$5.00/certificate for 1 shorti hoagie. Never expires! See either Tom Moyer, Kenda Cantalini or Cheryl Weaver to purchase.
- **Weis and Giant Gift Cards.** Various denominations available for purchase. See either Tom Moyer or Cheryl Weaver after church to purchase. The church receives 5% back on the Weis and Giant Gift cards that we sell.
- **Scrip Gift Cards** - If you ordered, cards will be delivered prior to the holidays.
- **Homemade Candy Sale** delivery will be December 12th following the church service.
- **Save your Redner's grocery receipts** – Place your receipts in the designated basket in the parlor area. The church receives 1% back from Redner's receipts.



You Are Invited!

Pastor Steve Davis and Bill Castello welcome you to their new home off Fish Hatchery Rd in SW Allentown.

Sunday, December 12th, 2 - 6 p.m. for a

Come and God Christmas Open House 2604 Bridgets Way, Allentown, PA 18103

OUR STAFF

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