An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All Congregation of the United Church of Christ

29 November 2026 – 10:30 AM
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand. Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

PRELUDE — *Autumn Leaves* — Joseph Kosma
JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano & vocals; Etienne Franc, bass; Zack Olsen, drums

WELCOME — the Rev. David Pattee, pastor

INTROIT 121 (seated) — TAULE

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE — with Joliene Wade Gatlin

*HYMN 107 [hymn sheet] *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE

*PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

*GLORIA

Glo---ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o,
Glo----ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o.

*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM — *All Good Gifts* — Stephen Schwartz

GOSPEL *Mark 13:24-37*

But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

SERMON *A Place Called ‘Justice’* Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY
Invitation
Offertory Music *Autumn Serenade* Peter Derose

*COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other:
to walk together in all God’s ways as the Holy is revealed to us;
to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus’ ministry in this church;
to celebrate through worship God’s amazing gifts of unity and diversity;
to take up Christ’s mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;
to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;
for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.

*HYMN 609 [hymn sheet] *Now Is the Time Approaching* WEBB

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Learn Your Lessons Well* Stephen Schwartz