

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ

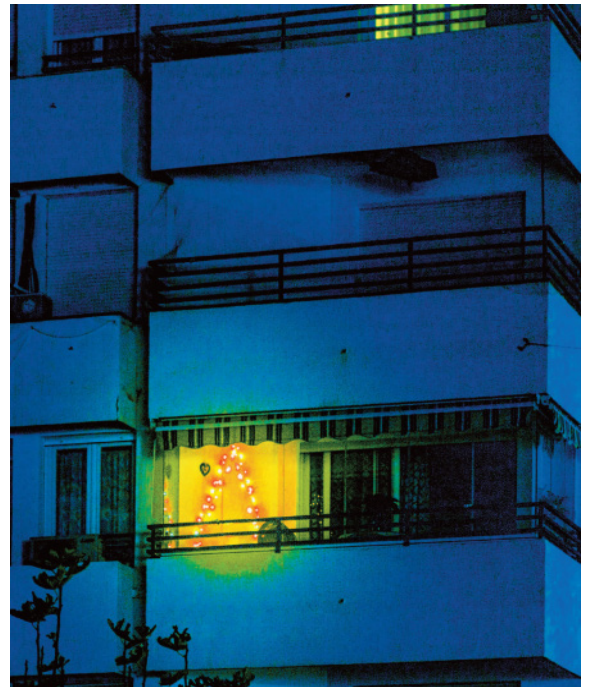
*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

---

---



*November 29, 2020  
First Sunday of Advent  
Blue Christmas*



*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone  
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity,  
sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, we affirm that  
all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities  
and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

---

---

## Order of Worship

**PRELUDE** *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* Hugh Martin  
Kim Massie, vocalist; Carolbeth True, piano; Cliff Aerie, saxophone;  
Danny Campbell, trumpet; Dave Troncoso, bass; Kevin Gianino, drums

**WELCOME** Jane Porchey, *Announcer*

**RAISING THE COVENANT** *Covenant of 1977*

**We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.**

**AT THE ADVENT WREATH** The Pastor and Student Ministers  
*Responsive Reading* (One; **Many**)

In such a time as this,

**When God's love becomes flesh. Again.**

In such a time as this,

**For a child to be born to us. Again.**

Though the night of our despair long lingers,

**There comes a light no shadow can overcome.**

Though our hearts ache for a justice we cannot yet see,

**The Holy One works for those who watch and wait.**

Though distanced from one another and well-acquainted with death,

**Our Deliverer draws near to bring us new life.**

No ear has yet heard, no eye has yet seen God's glory fully revealed.

**And so we wait.**

We know not when or where or how our Hope will be made manifest.

**And so we watch.**

The One who loves us does not slumber,

**So let us keep awake.**

Hope of the nations, come.

**Hope of our hearts, come.**

*The candle of Hope is lighted.*

**ALL: WE ARE LIVING IN SUCH A TIME... KINDLE OUR HOPE.**

**HYMN** *In the Bleak Midwinter* Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God transcends all heaven, earth and its domain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when Christ comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
But what can I offer? All my heart.

**AT THE JESSE TREE**      *Abraham's and Sarah's Stars* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**THE WORD SHARED**      Merrimon Boyd, *Student Minister*  
*From the Epistles*      1 Corinthians 1:3-9 New Revised Standard Version, *ad.*

Grace to you and peace  
    from God, the Parent we all share in common,  
    and from the Sovereign Jesus the Anointed One.  
I give thanks to my God always for you  
    because of the grace of God that has been given you  
    in the Anointed Jesus,  
for in every way you have been enriched in him –  
    in speech and knowledge of every kind,  
just as the testimony of the Anointed One has been strengthened among you  
    so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift  
as you wait for the revealing of our Sovereign Jesus  
    the Anointed One.  
God will also strengthen you to the end,  
    so that you may be blameless on the day of our Sovereign  
    Jesus the Anointed One.  
God is faithful:  
    by God you were called into the community of God's Child,  
Jesus the Anointed One  
    our Sovereign.

*Response*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“A Time for Hope”*

Rev. Denoon

**GUIDED MEDITATION**

Rev. Linda E. Smith, *Director  
Center for Counseling and Healing*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Share Our Joys and Concerns*

Elston McCowan, *Student Minister*

*Prayer of the Day*

Rev. Denoon

*Prayer of Our Savior (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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.**

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS**

*Invitation*

*The Christmas Fund*

Jane Porchey

*Prayer of Dedication*

**Creator God who came to us as one of us, Spirit who lives among us and within us, Redeemer who comes to us again in ways both mysterious and plain: At time we have waited long and your moments have come unexpectedly. Bless these gifts of hope and compassion, faithfulness and gratitude. For all your love has already done, thank you. For all you will yet do, through these gifts and by your Spirit, we praise you. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Denoon

**POSTLUDE**

*In the Bleak Midwinter / In the Bulb*

Medley

Two Times True Ensemble

Carolbeth True, piano; Kevin Smith, bass; David True, drums

**DISMISSAL**

Jane Porchey



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator  
Mark Edwards  
[marke@wustl.edu](mailto:marke@wustl.edu)

Pastor  
Rev. David A. Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator  
Debbie Tolstoi  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist  
Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager  
Chip Isringhaus  
[cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian  
Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian  
Gus McLean

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesrhs@sbcglobal.net)

Director of MICA  
Rev. Cliff Aerie  
[cliff.aerie@gmail.com](mailto:cliff.aerie@gmail.com)

Student Minister  
Merrimon Boyd  
[merrimon.boyd@gmail.com](mailto:merrimon.boyd@gmail.com)

Student Minister  
Elston McCowan  
[emccowan@eden.edu](mailto:emccowan@eden.edu)

*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

## Follow us on

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/)

SoundCloud

[www.soundcloud.com/firstchurchwg](http://www.soundcloud.com/firstchurchwg)

YouTube

<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

