

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming/Creation Justice Congregation
The Order of Worship
November 29, 2020 – 11:00 AM
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
Norm Libby, organ

Robert A. Hobby

Welcome

Stewardship Moment

Tom Lisle

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Neal & Sherry Halleran

Leaders: It is in hope that we enter into this special season. It is by hope that we are able to persevere in our waiting on the Holy One. It is with hope that we light this first candle.
(*Light the first purple candle*)

All: The way of Jesus brings hope to each day. May we, in this Advent season, share that hope with those who are afraid, those who grieve, and those who are lonely, so that they too might persevere.

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#114

Prayer of Confession

ALL: As we start Advent this year, O God, we wonder what to do. So much is different, traditions needing to be modified or canceled. We don't know what's ahead. At times we aren't even sure which way to head. Forgive us when we forget to look to your guidance. Turn our expectant gaze to your grace and love in the world that longs to lead us a life of peace and rejoicing. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
Whose humble song is quiet and near yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul, and hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll to shatters all hate and injustice.*

Children's Moment

Anthem

Magnificat James Chepponis
Norm Libby, organ; Deborah Marino, soloist

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Sermon

Christmas Letters Associate Pastor Deb Kunkel

Pastoral Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Postlude

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers setting by Jeffrey Blersch
Norm Libby, organ

Benediction

Sentence Sermons

"One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along ,that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home."--Michelle Blake

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." --Henri Nouwen

"Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself."
--Bill McKibben

UPCOMING

Our **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** is back in session! Join us on Zoom at 10:00 AM this Tuesday, December 1, as we explore Luke 9. Bring a Bible. Link information can be found in the E-blast and Sunday informational.

Carol Good's Art Group has resumed! Come get creative Tuesday's at 1:00-4:00pm under the church office.

Grethe's Gentle Yoga in the labyrinth resumes Thursday, December 3 at 9:00am, space is currently limited to 6-8 .

Our next no contact **Food Drive** partnered with Bat Yam to help clients of Gladiolus Food Pantry and F.I.S.H., is scheduled for December 3, 11:00am-1:00pm for more information please contact Pastor Deb at deb@sanibelucc.org

