



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, November 29, 2020
10:00 a.m.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership, and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We welcome you this day and are glad you made the choice to join us for this live stream worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE STREAM WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

YouTube - [YouTube](#)

Facebook - [First Church](#)

Radio at [WGCH](#) 1490 AM or 105.5 FM

Download the bulletin [HERE](#)

RUMMAGE ROOM

Store Hours

Monday - Thursday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Donation Hours

Wednesday & Thursday
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VIDEO WELCOME

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to 73256
or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage

PRELUDE

Repeating Alleluia
Calvin Hampton
The Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Gartner Family

If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!

The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Rev. Patrick Collins

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, thou dayspring from on high. Emmanuel,
God with us, and God for us, long ago you sent your Son Jesus among us,
but we have been little aware of his presence and we the light and love of
Christ from one another.**

**Wake us up this day and this season. Help us recognize your presence,
that you may be the light of our lives and that eagerly we may lead people
to follow you. O come Emmanuel, and build up among us and with us a
world of peace and love where we serve you in one another, as we move
forward in hope to your home of endless joy and rest. Let us pray and
rejoice together this day for we know that God truly is with us. Amen**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

FIRST LESSON

A Christmas Carol Part 1 (abridged)
Charles Dickens
Joe McBride

Once upon a time -- of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve -- old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather, and in Scrooge's office it was not much warmer either. Suddenly, a cheerful person entered the office. It was Scrooge's nephew.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" Fred said.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"

"I do," said Scrooge. "What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew. "What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough."

If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it? But you don't keep it," said Fred, who was a very friendly young man. He even tried to cheer Scrooge up and invited him for dinner on Christmas Day with his wife and friends, but Scrooge said no and sent him out.

When Scrooge's nephew left, two gentlemen came in to collect money for the poor who had no place they could go.

"Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir," they said.

Stingy Scrooge, however, didn't give the gentlemen any money.

"Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" he asked sarcastically. "I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry."

Scrooge told them to leave the office.

When it was time to close the office, Scrooge talked to his employee, the clerk, Bob Cratchit.

"You'll want all day off tomorrow, I suppose?" said Scrooge.

"If that is okay, Sir," answered the clerk.

"It's not okay," said Scrooge, "and it is not fair. After all, I have to pay you for the day although you don't work. A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December! But if it must be, I want you to start work even earlier the following morning."

Cratchit promised that he would; and Scrooge walked out with a growl.

ANTHEM

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

Mark Sirett

The Chancel Choir Quartet

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 20: 1-16

New International Version

Lynn Hawxhurst

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

MESSAGE

Keeping It 100!
Rev. Patrick Collins

MULTIMEDIA REFLECTION

Reckless Love (Cory Asbury Cover)
David Vicchiollo, Hannah Jo Smith, Ethan Pettigrew

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Cydney Van Dyke

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

People, Look East

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fughetta on "People, Look East"
Richard Shephard

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