



**First Congregational**  
United Church of Christ

**COMMUNITY CONTEMPLATIVE**  
**ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Scott

PRELUDE – Justin Kono

CALL TO WORSHIP – Pastor Scott

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16 – Pastor Cathy

“The day will come, says the LORD, when I will do for Israel and Judah all the good things I have promised them. “In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. In that day Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this will be its name: ‘The LORD Is Our Righteousness.’”

HYMN – #153 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE – Pastor Cathy

Come, let us walk the road that Mary walked  
the challenging road  
from Nazareth to Bethlehem  
not knowing what the future holds.

Come, let us walk the road that Joseph walked not sure what we are taking on  
but standing to be counted  
no matter the cost of such love.

Come, let us walk the road that Jesus walked from Bethlehem – via Jerusalem –  
to Galilee from Advent to Easter  
from new birth to new life.

SECOND READING – Psalm 25 – Pastor Scott

O LORD, I give my life to you.  
I trust in you, my God!  
Do not let me be disgraced,  
or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.  
No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced,  
but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.  
Show me the right path, O LORD;  
point out the road for me to follow.  
Lead me by your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God who saves me.  
All day long I put my hope in you.  
Remember, O LORD, your compassion and unfailing love,  
which you have shown from long ages past.  
Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.  
Remember me in the light of your unfailing love,  
for you are merciful, O LORD.  
The LORD is good and does what is right;  
he shows the proper path to those who go astray.  
He leads the humble in doing right,  
teaching them his way.  
The LORD leads with unfailing love and faithfulness  
all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.

SONG – *The Lord is My Song* (5x) Songs from Taizé #20

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

Prayer

*Advent Prayers – at this time you may lift up a prayer request aloud, or upon your heart silently as we hold one another in prayer  
After each request may the community respond **Lord, hear our prayers.***

Lord's Prayer (as you may have learned it)

SONG – *The Lord is My Light* (5x) songs from Taizé #36

## A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

*During this time of reflection, you are invited to come forward to the communion table, lighting a candle in prayer.*

## THIRD READING – Luke 21:25-36 – Pastor Cathy

“And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”

Then he gave them this illustration: “Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

“Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware, like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

## CLOSING SONG – *Dona Nobis Pacem* – Music Ministry

## BENEDICTION – Pastor Scott