

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the Twin Cities:
Come to a place where you can explore, be curious and ask questions.*

December 3, 2017 10:30 am
First Sunday of Advent



*O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones:
I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. Ezekiel 37:4b-5*

610 West 28th St., Minneapolis, MN 55408

612. 870.1868 office@fccmpls.org

www.fccmpls.org



Welcome Visitors, Friends, and Members!

Welcome! ...to a place where you can explore, be curious and ask questions.

May you find comfort, joy, strength and peace as you worship the Loving and Living Lord with us today.

First Christian truly seeks to be a place of welcome to all!

Children are welcome in worship! For those who desire childcare during worship, nursery care is available downstairs for infants through 4 year olds. Older children can be at the activity table in the back with Deb and Anna.

Audio Receivers are available from an usher for the hearing impaired.

Songbooks: Words to the songs are printed in this bulletin. If you'd like to have words and music, songbooks can be found on the bookrack by the sanctuary entrance.

Communion: As members of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we practice open communion. All believers are invited to partake. The emblems will be passed through the rows by the deacons. Please partake of the gluten free bread and grape juice as it is passed.

Our denomination: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), often referred to as The Disciples, is a denomination known for an Open Theology and an Open Table. To find out more about our heritage, check out the DOC page: www.disciples.org.

Want to know more about First Christian? Go to www.fccmpls.org and check out our ministries. To find out more about our LGBT ministry, click on Reaching Out.

Missed a service? Listen to the sermon: <http://www.fccminneapolis.org/home/sermon-archive/>
Live stream in case you can't be here! https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPVqQ57szyEh8JCtF_8lhiw/live

Interested in receiving our newsletter? Send an e-mail to office@fccmpls.org or call Deb 612-870-1868, ext. 1. We can send it electronically or in the mail or both!

Like us on Facebook: First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)-Minneapolis. Follow various activities and events. You'll also find links to the newsletter and podcasts.

Deadline: for next issue of *The Courier* newsletter is Sunday, December 17, 2017

Wednesdays at noon for bulletin announcements

Ministry Team: All Members of the Congregation

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor,
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Jon Bates, SHMC Youth Director,
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Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence

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Deb Murphy, Office Manager & Director of
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Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care

Mike Vasich – Pianist

Office: 612-870-1868 Deb – press 1; Pastor Laurie – press 2; Pastor Dan – press 3; FCN Julie – press 4

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SpringHouse Ministry Center: **Website** www.springhousemc.org **SHMC Telephone:** 612-353-6292

+Please stand as you are able in body & spirit.

The Community Gathers

Please add your prayers to the Prayer Wall in the front of the sanctuary. If you have a Joy, Concern, or Prayer Request to share, please write it on one of the white slips found on the table by the prayer wall and give it to Pastor Dan before our prayer time.

Gathering Music		Mike Vasich
Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting each other		Arlene Hillestad
Prelude	<i>Sonata No. 1 for Solo Violin BWV 1001 movement 1 Adagio</i>	JS Bach

+Call to Worship (a responsive reading) Arlene Hillestad

One: The mystery begins where the winter finds its feet and the rush of frost and chill competes with the old hope of incarnation.

Center: Darker nights unfold and with the fading of the light the sun weakens.

Children: Held by this frozen earth

Low Voices: wrapped in winter's frost

Many: the mystery of the ancient hope is alight once more

One: For from the stump of Jesse the dry old tree of David's line comes a new branch;

Sides: a new shoot

High Voices: cracking through the season

Board Members: with a promise yet unfulfilled.

Choir/Musicians: This is the hoping.

Staff: The waiting.

Many: The advent.

One: Let us gather round the words the prophets spoke long ago and believe:

ALL: Emmanuel is on the way!

+Song of Praise *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Chalice Hymnal #138

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together

He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

In deepest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing

As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.

Then shall the silent join in song, the tired shall leap in wonder,

The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
May God fill ev'ry day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

+Invocation

Arlene Hillestad

+The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who is in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

+Musical Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 1)

CH #119

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!

Hearing and Reflecting on God's Word

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jim & Lynda Lee and family

Community Joys & Concerns

Dan Adolphson

Song of Response

Comfort, Comfort, You My People (v. 3)

CH #122

Make you straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of our God now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Prayers of the People

Children's Moment

"Hope"

Deb Murphy

Anthem

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Traditional, setting by John Carter

Scripture

Arlene Hillestad

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the

word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

Sermon

“These Bones”

Laurie Feille

Responding to the Word

Hymn of Invitation

Spirit of the Living God

CH #259

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

(Repeat)

Celebration of Gifts

Lu Griffin

Offering Invitation

Collection of Offering

Special Music: Sonata No. 3 in C major BWV 1005 movement 3 Largo

JS Bach

Archer Brown, Violin

+Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here

below. Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen

+Prayer of Dedication

The Lord's Supper

Jay Hillestad

Invitation to Communion

Sharing the Peace of Christ

(When invited to do so, please share Christ's peace with **one or two** near you.

"The peace of Christ be with you." Response: "And also with you.")

Song of Communion

When You Do This, Remember Me

CH #400

You my friend, a stranger once, do now belong to heaven.

Once far away, you are brought home into God's family.

"When you do this, remember me."

Now my Lord is also yours, my people are your own;

Embraced together in God's arms, I enfold you now I mine.

"When you do this, remember me."

All your sorrows shall be mine, your joy shall be my joy;

Indebted to God's love in Christ, we die and reign with him.

"When you do this, remember me."

So let us renew our faith, remembering our Lord;

To our strong hope we will hold fast, unshaken to the end.

"When you do this, remember me."

Prayer for Communion and Words of Institution

Partaking of the Lord's Supper: ***All are truly welcome to partake.*** Please partake of the gluten free bread and the grape juice as they are passed.

Music for Meditation:

A Child is Born

Thad Jones

Closing Words

Dan Adolphson

+Benediction

Laurie Feille

+Song of Blessing

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (v.1)

CH #129

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits.

The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Postlude

Soon and Very Soon

Andre Crouch

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! Please join us upstairs in the Gathering Space for refreshments and fellowship!

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Thank you to Archer Brown for sharing his gift of music with us!

Outreach Opportunities

Advent Giving: We will continue our tradition of giving gifts of money and/or household goods to those in need. Please read the insert and use the special envelope included in this bulletin.

Sheridan Story: Every other Friday morning, 1 or 2 people from First Christian go to the Whittier School – just 3 blocks from here – to put pre-packed food into children’s backpacks in their lockers so that they will have food over the weekend. The sign-up clip board is kept in the office on the counter.

Don’t forget to take a few Bags of Grace: You can find these by the doors of the North Sanctuary that are on the same side of the room as the kids’ table. Keep them in your car to give to the homeless that are on street corners.

Announcements & Things of Interest

Photographs needed! Advent is upon us. Deb needs photographs. Where do you see God’s **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love** in the world? Send your pictures to office@fccmpls.org

Advent Study: Pastor Laurie will be leading an Advent Study on Tuesday evenings, 7 pm (Dec. 5, 12, 19). She will be sharing videos from this summer's General Assembly.

Worship: Every Wednesday, SpringHouse congregations will gather at 5:30 for a Soup Supper, followed at 6 pm by a Holden Prayer Service in the North Sanctuary. This is a quiet, brief meditative liturgy with emphasis on bringing light in the darkness, and featuring simple meditative music. Afterwards, we are invited by Lyndale folks to join them for films from Lyndale's Racial Justice initiative. The films to be shown are as follows:

- **Wednesday, December 6: "White Like Me."** Anti-racist educator Tim Wise explores race and racism in the US through the lens of whiteness and white privilege.
- **Wednesday, December 13: "The Doctrine of Discovery."** Dakota filmmaker Sheldon Wolfchild's documentary tells the story of how little known Vatican documents led to laws and systems in the US and Canada that are still being used against Original Nations and Peoples.
- **Wednesday, December 20: "13th."** This 2016 documentary by Ava DuVernay explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States.

The Children’s Pageant and Joint Worship will be on Sunday, December 17 in the South Sanctuary. The children are rehearsing during the Sunday School time between now and then.

Christmas Eve Sunday: We will be having a 10:30 am worship/Christmas Eve service and a 10 pm traditional Candlelight & Communion Lessons & Carols service.

W

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent - Hope

10:30 am – Worship in the Garden Sanctuary

11:30 am – Fellowship time in the Gathering Space

Noon – Child Ministry Meeting

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Monday, December 4

6 pm – Yoga in North Sanctuary

7 pm – Covenant Review Committee

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Tuesday, December 5

8:30 am – Narrative Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Residence

7 pm – Advent Study with Pastor Laurie

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C

Wednesday, December 6

5:30 pm – Soup Supper in Gathering Space

6 pm – Holden Prayer Service

6:30 pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lydia

6:30 pm – SpringHouse Movie Study

7:45 pm – Choir rehearsal in Garden Sanctuary

A

Thursday, December 7

9 am – Ecumenical Women’s Ministry in Timothy

7 pm – Carter Circle at SpringHouse

L

E

Saturday, December 9

9 am – Men’s Bible Study

9 am – SpringHouse Huddle

6 pm – SpringHouse Youth Christmas Party

N

D

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

9:15 am – Children’s Sunday School in the Squiggle Space

9:30 am - Adult Ed in the Gathering Space

10:30 am – Worship in the Garden Sanctuary

11:30 am – Fellowship time in the Gathering Space

Noon – SpringHouse GreenTeam

A

B

Live-streaming: We now live-stream our worship services over the internet. If you do not wish to be photographed or to have your children photographed, please talk to Pastor Laurie, Pastor Dan or Deb Murphy before the service. Parents, we have a photo permission form for you to fill out whether you do or do not want your child in the live stream.