



GATHERING TIME

We remember that we do not wait for Christ alone, we wait as a community and as a family. Greet those you know and those you have yet to meet.

OPENING MUSIC

Still Still Still

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

One: God be with you.

Many: **And also with you!**

One Be still and know that God is here.

All: God dwells in our hearts, our minds and the deepest corners of our being. Here and now we let go of all our distractions that we may again discover that truth.

We enter into a time of silence. Do not worry if your mind wanders; we are like God's children in God's lap; we remain in God's lap, caressed and cared for even when our minds wander elsewhere.

SCRIPTURE READING

Advent 1: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Advent 2: Isaiah 12:2-6

Advent 3: Micah 5:2-5a

You are invited to share a word or phrase from the reading that jumped out at you—you need not offer any explanation.

ADVENT PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

We lift prayers with the theme for each week.

CENTERING MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PRAYING TOGETHER

Sharing our Joys and Blessings

Sharing our Burdens and Concerns

CENTERING MUSIC

O Come O Come Emmanuel

ADVENT PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES

We lift prayers with the theme for each week.

SENDING PRAYER

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Go with us now into the world.

We can begin again!

Everything is about to change.

So make everything new. Make us new.

Reveal your glory in our lives and in the rhythms of our lives,

so that nothing will get in the way of your coming.

Amen.

~ written by April Yamasaki, and posted on the Emmanuel Mennonite Church blog. <http://www.emmanuelmennonite.com/>.

SHARING OF THE PEACE



WELCOME

A place grounded in the love and grace of God...

A diverse and growing Christian community of extravagant welcome...

A church that leans on the Spirit of its history to claim its progressive present reality.

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Stockbridge. Here in our historic New England sanctuary we gather to meet our still-speaking God in new and fresh ways. Our dynamic and relevant worship is the center of our life together. Here we encounter God's grace and love, discover truth and meaning, and seek to apply our faith to the countless decisions we make every day. We value inspired preaching, glorious music, fellowship that fosters our relationships with God and with each other, and learning and service that deepen our connection to Christ, the world, and one another.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation made up of old and young; gay and straight; married, single and partnered; those who have it all figured out and those searching for where to begin; lifelong Christians and some who are still skeptical of faith; those who are riding high on life and those a little down on their luck. We welcome you no matter who you are and where you are on life's journey. While our founding dates back to 1734 and names like John Sergeant and Jonathan Edwards grace the pages of our history, we take seriously the church's call to make the Christian faith our own in this generation. We honor those who have come before while serving those who are in our midst today. We hope that you will learn about us on our website, but even better – come spend time with us at worship, in service or in study!

Sunday Worship—10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available During Worship

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know that I

Be still and know that

Be still and know

Be still and

Be still

MORNING

ADVENT

PRAYER

The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Stockbridge, MA

stockbridgeucc.org

413-298-3137