
First Congregational Church

20 December 2020



Communion
Fourth Sunday in Advent



2610 East Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, Alaska 99508

907.272.8363—www.fccak.org

Enter with a spirit of preparation as we gather ourselves for worship

Prelude: "Prelude on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*" Ferguson, Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Reading:

ONE: Sing out, my soul! Sing of the holiness of God:

ALL: who has delighted in humanity; lifted up the poor, satisfied the hungry, given voice to the silent, and grounded the oppressor.

ONE: God has blessed the full-bellied with emptiness, and given the gift of tears to those who have never wept;

ALL: God has desired the darkness of the womb, and inhabited our flesh—

ONE: Sing of the longing of God:

ALL: Sing out, my soul!

Advent Candle Lighting

Musical Offering

Children's Moment

Invitation to Giving

Dedication of Gifts: (unison)

O Faithful One, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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: "Comfort, Comfort You My People" No. 122, Pg. 7

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of

hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵ But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Sermon: "Building a Home for God"
Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter

☞ Service of Holy Communion ☞

This community meal celebrating Communion at FCC is an open table.

All are welcome to share in this meal, no matter what your faith tradition may be.

No matter what has led you to this moment, young and old alike come to share.

May this moment be a time of grace and belonging

Invitation:

ONE: God in Christ calls us to this meal of growing imagination...

ONE: At this table we receive God's peace made food, God's solidarity with us made living and real. What we receive, we now share together.

Communion Prayer:

ONE: May God be with you.

ALL: And also with you!

ONE: Gather in your hearts.

ALL: We gather together with God

ONE: Let us give thanks to God among us.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

ONE: Through the Spirit's imagining, we give thanks...

Words of Institution:

One: We remember ...

One: So now, renewing God, bless those gathered here, together with this bread and cup, through the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us one household, the church, your serving people, that we may be the bread and cup shared for your hope for the world.

All: Amen! Come Holy Spirit!

Gathering and Preparation of Elements at Home

You are invited to share in the bread and cup elements as you are ready. They may be bread and wine, cookies and milk, Chic-O-Sticks and Dr. Pepper, or beef jerky and water. This is a shared meal of grace and belonging.

We eat together the promise of fullness of life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

ALL: Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow among us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **No. 119, Pg. 8**

Benediction

Postlude: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Uehlein

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Refrain Harmony

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851;
 st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM

122 Comfort, Comfort You My People

1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
 bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

GENEVA 42
 87.87.77.88

♩=140-148

Sunday Worship – Online!

Joining FCC worship service by video:

-Click this link, or type it into your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/714054878>

-Meeting ID: 714 054 878

-Password: 9072728363

•Desktop/laptop:

- * If you are using a computer or laptop, you may be prompted to open the Zoom app. If you do not have it already, press 'cancel' and there will be a link on the page that says something like 'join from your browser'. Mac users should download Zoom app or use Chrome browser.
- * When joining the service you will be asked to enter a name for others to see.
- * Select 'Join audio by computer' when prompted
- * You may need to give permission to use your microphone and camera. You can mute and unmute your camera and microphone in the bottom left corner of your screen.

•Mobile Device:

- * If you are using a mobile device you will be prompted to download the app for Zoom. Download it now to make sure you are ready.
- * Enter a name for others to see.
- * You may need to give permission to use your microphone and camera. You can mute and unmute your camera and microphone in the bottom left corner of your screen.

Join by Phone (audio only):

•You can call into the service. The process goes like this:

- * Call this number: (301) 715-8592
- * Enter this meeting ID number: 714 054 878
- * You do not need a participant ID number, press the # key when prompted.
- * Password: 9072728363
- * That's it! Your phone will be automatically muted when you enter in the meeting.
- * You can mute and unmute your phone by pressing: *6

Stay Connected – Online!

Classes and meetings:

Regular classes and meetings will still happen. They will be held remotely at the links below. All you need to do is click or enter the link and join the room. You may be prompted to allow use of your camera and/or microphone. All classes, meetings, and fellowship opportunities will be in the *Gathering Room* on Zoom.

- Gathering Room: <https://zoom.us/j/779177417>,
 - Meeting ID: 779 177 417
 - Password: 9072728363
- * Lectio Divina (lectionary group)
 - ⇒ Tuesdays at 10:00am
- * Roots of Joy
 - ⇒ Tuesdays at 7:00pm
 - ⇒ Our current series is exploring anti-racism is/as the church
- * Afternoon Tea
 - ⇒ Wednesdays and Fridays at 3:00 pm
 - ⇒ Informal gathering similar to a Sunday Fellowship Hour
- * “Soup” Group
 - ⇒ Thursdays at 10:00 am
- * Ministry Meetings
 - ⇒ Ministries will continue to meet online at their normal time
- * Deacon meetings
 - ⇒ As needed
- * Council
 - ⇒ May schedule additional meetings as needed
- * Chatting with friends
 - ⇒ Anytime that there are not other scheduled events
- * Any other scheduled meet-up that is not Sunday morning worship



News from the Pews

- ☆ **Council Meeting**—Today, after worship
- ☆ **Lectio Divina**—Tuesdays at 10:00am
- ☆ **Roots of Joy**—Tuesdays at 7:00pm
- ☆ **Afternoon Tea**—Wednesdays & Fridays at 3:00pm
- ☆ **Handbell Choir**—Wednesdays at 5:00pm
- ☆ **Choir**—Wednesdays at 7pm
- ☆ **Candlelight Service**—Thursday, Dec. 24th at 7pm

All meetings and events are on Zoom, unless otherwise noted

Candlelight Service—The Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be virtual this year. It will be premiered on the church's YouTube channel on Christmas Eve at 7pm. A link will be sent out next week in the Daily Update, and the link will also be on the homepage of the website, www.fccak.org

2020 Holiday Offering— For this year's Holiday Offering, Outreach Ministry has decided to join with multiple Anchorage organizations that are continuing to support the people of our city. All funds received will be split evenly between Children's Lunchbox, Clare House, Hospice of Anchorage, FISH, and Bean's Café.

Most of these efforts have adapted and shifted their mission to meet the specific needs and challenges of this year. Budgets and anticipated funds have evaporated, yet the need has increased.

If you would like to contribute to the 2020 Holiday Offering, you can mail a check or drop it in the church's mail slot, or you can use the online giving page on the website. Please write "Holiday Offering" on the envelope or memo line of your check. If giving online, type "Holiday Offering" in the optional memo line before clicking the one-time donation Give button.



Roots of Joy—

A service that

explores other ways to engage our faith and spirituality together. Our current series is exploring anti-racism.

"Soup" Group— It has started up again, virtually! A time to discuss crafting ideas for the upcoming holidays, to fellowship, and any other ideas the group chooses.



Afternoon Tea—

Fellowship

Ministry is inviting you and your family to Afternoon Tea, every Wednesday and Friday at 3:00 pm, in the online Gathering room. It is an informal gathering like we have for an hour after Sunday's worship service, so we have no set topic or purpose other than sharing and support.

New Prayer Concerns

Bev Mervyn, aunt of Jim Walker	Friends and family of Bill Mervyn
Debbie Dillon, sister-in-law of Fermen Dillon	Friends and family of Kent Dillon
Christina Pike, daughter of Vivian Pike	Friends and family of Mary Mitchell
Stan Parker; brother of Lori Wasko	Friends and family of Kirsten James

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

	Trenton Smith, grandson of Louise Smith, son of Ken & Ginger Smith
Bob Kniefel	Miguel De Marzo
Roger Meyer, brother of Cindi Crawford	Elizabeth Amber; family of Jenna & Nathan Amber
Richard Nelson, cousin of Sandy Skaggs	Piero De Marzo, brother of Miguel De Marzo
Joyce Johnson, mother of Linda Sereyko	Claudia Kniefel
Larry Jones, brother-in-law of Claudia Kniefel	Donna Werth, sister of Vivian Pike
Louise Smith	Ron Broome
Alice Butler; mother of Jane vonBirgelen	Elisabeth Kachline
Cathy White & her family	Karen Wasko; mother of Paul Wasko
Family of Ian White; Director, Crow Creek Pipe & Drum	Peggy Jones; sister of Claudia Kniefel
Barbara May; great grandmother of Reagan & Avery Binek	Margaret Webber; friend of Barbara Bowerman & Pam Wright
Bob Reupke; husband of Toni Reupke	Paul Chapin; cousin of Chris Walker
Jacob Kreuzenstein; grandson of Peggy Kreuzenstein	Nicole Johnson; niece of Eric Johnson & Marilyn Lee
Wayne Pratt; brother of Sharon Higgins	Sunny Bird; friend of Chris Walker
Joe's daughter; friend of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline	Charlene Demshki; mother of Ginger Smith
Mary Anne's mother; friend of Elisabeth & Harry Kachline	Lillian Soth; granddaughter of Jeanette & Fermen Dillon

Deaths

Oliver Krein, friend of many in the congregation	Don May, great grandfather of Reagan & Avery Binek
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For all the teachers, aides, staff, and volunteers who educate our children; for the first responders, those serving in the military, and those that serve our community in a variety of ways; for the peacekeepers and public servants; for those in our community who are in need and those struggling in different ways; for the people with whom we are in conflict, we pray.

People of First Congregational Church

Senior Minister

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter

907.272.8363—jacobp@fccak.org

Music Ministry

Caroline Valentine

Organist and Director, Northern Lights Ringers

Lori Parker Wasko

Director, Chancel Choir

Contacts

Krystal Poindexter

Administrative Assistant

907.272.8363—office@fccak.org

Scott McClure

Church Sexton

Sandy Skaggs

Wedding Coordinator

907.223.7659

Sunday Volunteers

Deacon Serving: Louise Smith &
Kathy Means

Liturgist: Lynn Barber

Advent Reader: Margaret Wolfe

Children's Moment: Chris Walker

This week's Communion Table flowers are given by Abbie Willetto, dedicating them to them to the frontline workers who continue to provide support during this time.

Flowers provided by Evalyn's Floral

Connect—Get Involved—Share a Prayer Request

Fill out one of the connect cards located in the back of the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.

Worship is currently
online only, via Zoom

- Meeting ID: 714 054 878
- Password: 9072728363

Member—

National Association
Of Congregational
Christian Churches



www.facebook.com/fccak.org

Online Giving

In addition to cash or checks, First Congregational Church accepts donations and pledge payments securely online with a credit card. Scan the QR code or go to www.fccak.org/give



Thank you for your financial participation in the work of First Congregational Church!

First Congregational Church of Anchorage

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Communion		10am Lectio Divina	3pm Afternoon Tea	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	9am Organist
Fourth Sunday of Advent		7pm Roots of Joy	5pm Handbell Choir	7pm Candlelight Service Livestream		
10:30am Worship 11:30am Council Mtg			7pm Choir			
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2
Lessons & Carols		10am Lectio Divina	3pm Afternoon Tea	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day	9am Organist
10:30am Worship		7pm Roots of Joy	5pm Handbell Choir 7pm Choir		3pm Afternoon Tea	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30am Worship 11:30am Outreach Mtg		10am Lectio Divina 7pm Roots of Joy	3pm Afternoon Tea 5pm Handbell Choir 7pm Choir	10am "Soup Group" 6:30pm Investment Club	3pm Afternoon Tea	9am Organist
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30am Worship		10am Lectio Divina 3:30pm Stewardship Mtg 7pm Roots of Joy	3pm Afternoon Tea 5pm Handbell Choir 7pm Choir	10am "Soup Group" 4pm Fellowship Mtg	3pm Afternoon Tea	9am Organist

Color Key—Black: Worship, Blue: FCC Activities, Purple: FCC Partnership Activities