

# THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of  
The United Church of Christ*

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Welcome ~ Bienvenidos*

December 9, 2018

10:30 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices  
before the service of Worship begins.*

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*God is "revealed in slow, random-seeming increments,  
just little glimpses here and there of the picture being painted,  
of the story whose end God is.*

*It's your job to be patient, to pause, to look,  
to be prepared for little bursts of delight."*

~ Quinn Caldwell

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### COMING BEFORE GOD

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

PRELUDE

Noel

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHORAL INTROIT

Rejoice, Emmanuel

Plainsong

*PLEASE STAND.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus!

**People: For we are impatient, hurting, groping about in the shadows awaiting light! This day, we gather together and join our voices, spirits, and love to say, "Come!"**

*PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

No. 103

ABERYSTWYTH

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

*(The candle of Peace is lighted.)*

*PLEASE STAND.*

## HYMN

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

No. 136

WONDERFUL CHILD

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;

New light, new hope the Child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, glory, glory,"

Let the heavens ring!

## THE PASSING OF PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us bless each other with the peace of Christ.

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

## TRUMPET and PIANO

Jazz Christmas Medley

*Terrence French, Trumpet and Chris Jeffers, Piano*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

*PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

*(After Worship, the children exit to attend church school.)*

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

GOSPEL READINGS

Luke 1:68-79

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 934

Luke 3:1-6

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 936

SERMON Wait For It ... !

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

*PLEASE STAND.*

HYMN

No. 110

Now Bless the God of Israel

FOREST GREEN

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

*(\* = traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting.)*

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

*(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)*

Offertory Music

The Holly and the Ivy

Arr. R. Jacques

*Center Church Choir*

*PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.*

Hymn of Presentation

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

ADESTE FIDELIS (ENGLISH MELODY)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**O Mighty One, you have done and are doing great things for and through us, and you are holy and amazing. Bless all we offer you – time, possessions, passions-that your grace and favor may be made known in all the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.*

CLOSING HYMN

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

No. 122

STUTTGART

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

While By My Sheep

17<sup>th</sup>-century Anonymous

*Please be seated to enjoy the postlude. Go in peace!*

POSTLUDE

Swiss Noel

Nicholas-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)