******Falmouth Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

Serving Christ and Community since 1754

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Reverend Amelia Edson

Settled Pastor & Teacher

**Advent I: Make Room**

267 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth, ME, 04105 | 207-781-3413 | www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org

# **10:00 AM FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 3, 2023**



**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

*Welcome! If you would like more information about our community, please fill out a blue visitor card. Throughout the order of worship, if the print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**PRELUDE** “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Judith E. Treisback

Bell Choir

**MAKE ROOM** (Video)

**\*PROCESSIONAL** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” No. 129

**CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Pastor Amelia

**CHORAL INTRODUCTION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We begin the Advent season by yearning for Christ

**All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s work**

One: We survey our lives and strive to make room for Christ’s coming

**All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s work**

One: We confront the division, doubt, and distraction that separates us

**All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s work**

One: This Advent season we choose hope, and prepare the way for the Lord

**All: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God’s work**

**LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE**

**CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE** See screen

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Lydia Hoffman

One: When Mary was with child the world viewed her with suspicion.

**All: We admit that we, too, struggle to believe other’s truths, and even silence the knowledge of our own hearts.**

One: As Joseph and Mary searched for a place to shelter the world closed its doors.

**All: We confess that we, too, close ourselves off from the suffering of this world, choosing apathy over empathy and ignorance over engagement.**

One: When Jesus was born the powerful attacked his family, trying to stamp out the hope he promised.

**All: We realize that we, too, participate in systems that oppress the vulnerable. We, too, are afraid to fully embrace the hope that God offers us.**

One: Emmanuel, God with us, forgive us our trespasses and open our hearts.

**All: So that on Christmas Day we will be ready to receive you in our midst, and our lives may be testaments of the Christmas Story.**

 **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  Lydia Hoffman

One: Let us remember: Christ came to earth so that we might remember our true selves and God’s love.

**All: There is nothing we can do, think, or say that can separate us from God in Christ Jesus.**

One: Hallelujah!

**\*HYMN** “Come, O Long Expected Jesus” No. 125

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 2:1-5 Grace Howison

 Mark 13:24-37 Emily Pond

**SERMON “**Make Room” Rev. Amelia Edson

**\*HYMN** “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” No. 134

 *Ushers will collect prayer cards during this hymn.*

**THE FEAST OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**PREFACE**

 One: Lift up your hearts.

 **All: We lift them up to God.**

 One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **All: It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**RETELLING THE STORY**

**THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE SUNG LORD’S PRAYER** No. 307

 **OFFERING OUR GIFTS & FOOD**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. Lloyd Larsen

 Ann Sanborn, saxophone

 *You may also donate online or on Venmo @FalmouthUCC*

**\*DOXOLOGY** No. 46

**\*BENEDICTION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE** “Angels from the Realms of Glory”arr. John Innes

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***\**** *Please stand in body or spirit*

*We strive to use a diversity of language to describe God, in line with the diversity of images and metaphors in our Scripture. Many hymns and prayers default to male language. Please use the language that allows you to worship best, knowing that all human speech about God is metaphoric and ultimately incomplete.*



Thank you to our worship participants:

 Presiding: Rev. Amelia Edson

 Minister of Music: Jan Stover

 Minister of Children & Families: Lydia Hoffman

 Ushers: Caroline Pond, Kim Hendry

 Acolyte: Caroline Pond

 Advent Candle Lighters: The Boyd Family

 Online Worship: Virginia Eddy, Tom Stegemann, Jack Gervais