

December 9, 2018 – 10:00 am  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- **PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.**
- **\*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.**
- **NCH IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL.**

PRELUDE: **“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

Carol Tornquest

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

CHOIR: **“Love’s Pure Light”** Joel Raney

Congregational part - insert

RESPONSIVE LITANY: **Hope for God’s Peace**

One: In this season of Advent  
we long for God’s peace.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

One: We witness the hostility between nations and  
neighbors.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

One: We see a world full of fractured relation-  
ships and unforgiving hearts.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

One: We seek relief from our own inner turmoil  
and restlessness.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.**

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that only through trust in God's word and God's promises can we find our own inner peace. We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread through the world.

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**One:** In this season of waiting, our God comes.

**MANY:** **Come suddenly, Holy God, into our slow expectations and fill us with your urgent hopes for justice.**

**One:** In this holy season of delight and wonder, our Savior comes.

**MANY:** **Come suddenly, Companion of the poor, and challenge us to share in the gospel of welcome for all.**

**One:** In these days of remembering what our lives are to be, our Spirit comes.

**MANY:** **Come suddenly, Preparer of the way, to take us by the hand to walk with our sisters and brothers down the path to service.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 126**

**"Angels from the Realm of Glory"**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**God our Savior, we turn our wandering minds to you and seek a new vision of your love and direct guidance from Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Prepare us to**

**celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus in power and great glory. Amen**

**\*GLORIA: NCH 759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 3:1-4  
Lay Liturgist**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:1-6**  
The Spirit continues to speak to the church.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**SERMON: "Preparation"**

**\*ANTHEM: "Emmanuel, Come"**  
With congregational response as directed:  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**  
**(repeat)**

**PASTORAL PRAYER:** Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer. Concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who lives in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE: Verse 3 “Away in a Manger”**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

**OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES**

**OFFERTORY: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

**John M. Rasley**

**\*DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**You come in this holy season with the simple gift of life  
itself. You invite us to share from the abundance of our  
lives, so others might be filled with life, with hope, with  
love, and with grace. Bless these gifts we offer to You,  
so they may be used to share the gospel of wholeness  
and welcome for all. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 43**

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 812 Three-Fold Amen  
Amen, Amen, A-men.**

**\*POSTLUDE: “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”**

**Stephen Schwartz**