

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Advent II

Serving us in ministry today:

Bill Masterson ~ Deacon of the Day
Anelia Corbin & Isabella Sisting ~ Acolytes

Carl & Connie Applegate and
Jim & Kathy McKenna ~ Usher/ Greeters

Jenelle Pedersen ~ Nursery

Bev Berry & Anne Wingard ~ Coffee Hour

The flowers today are presented by Jack Carr
in loving memory of his parents, John & Dorothy Carr.

TODAY

6:00 Junior High Youth in Preble

Attendance December 1: (due to ice) 18



Service of Worship

For Quiet Meditation

...in this season of Advent we yearn for the coming of the One who will make all things right – that time when animals and humans alike will experience peace in the presence of one another. But in the meantime? Even as we watch and wait, it appears that the responsibility lies with us – not only to cry out in dismay when it is otherwise, but to be those who judge with righteousness and equity for the meek and the poor even now. To make things right when and where we can today. For that Spirit has been given to us, to you and to me, for precisely this. I wonder what it would look like if for only just a few weeks this December we were to live like this were so?

~ from *Dancing the Word* by Janet H. Hunt

WE GATHER

**those who are able, please stand*

Welcome

Prelude Come, Savior of the Nations Bach
Chimes

following the prelude, we allow some silence

Lighting the Advent Candle: Peace
Quinn, Terry, Asa and Asher
Abby Elkins - oboe

*Hymn Come, O Long Expected Jesus #125

GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

Children's Moment

Anthem The Holly and the Ivy

Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10

Sermon Stumped

OUR RESPONSE

Silence is kept

Prayers of the People

Right here, right now, right where I am, I pray.

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Offering

Invitation to Give

Offertory Once He Came in Blessing Bach

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above you heav-nly hosts.

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

*Prayer of Dedication

In the giving of our gifts, we pray that your blessing will descend upon the children in greatest need, O God. Use us - use the gifts - for the sake of peace in the world.

Amen.

BLESSING

Announcements

*Hymn When God is a Child (vs. 1 & 2) #132

*Benediction

*Postlude Come, Savior of the Nations Pachelbel



THIS WEEK:

Monday

4:45 Disciple I – studying Acts

Tuesday

2:00 Senior Fellowship Christmas celebration
Pastors Vicki & Gary have the program

5:00 Centering Prayer

6:30 Deacons meeting

Thursday

7:00 Choir practice – note different night!

Saturday

9:00 Children's Pageant Rehearsal
followed by a craft

2:00 Youth Group Christmas Caroling
Starting in Preble
Finishing in Cortland
All are welcome to join our youth!

COMING UP:

Sunday, December 15

9:30 Pageant Run-through
Holy Envy, chapt. 7 led by Joanne Cincotta

10:30 **Children's Christmas Pageant**

Christmas Eve at Homer Congregational UCC

Bring the whole family for our **Birthday Party for Jesus**. Beginning at **4:00 p.m.**, we will focus on the true meaning of Christmas in terms that each of us can understand. Each year when our birthday comes around, many of us have a cake and candles. On Christmas Eve, we will have a birthday cake for Jesus, made by Jack Bertram. We will light candles as we think about Jesus when he was a boy, and give thanks for his birth. We will sing carols, listen to the story recorded by Luke, pray and after blowing out the candles, we'll have cake and ice cream. Come and meet Michael the Mouse. We hope you can join us.

In the beauty of our sanctuary, at **7:00**, we will celebrate a traditional service of **Lessons, Carols and Candlelight**. As the light shines down on the manger, we will hear the ancient story, sing the carols and listen to special music. As is our tradition, we will encircle the pews, light candles and sing Silent Night to end the service. Why not extend an invitation to your co-workers, neighbors and friends?

Hope is an apple seed.
Hope is striking the match
to light the first candle in the dark.
Hope is speaking truth,
even when your voice trembles, to power.
Hope is sometimes bright and sometimes dim.
Hope is the first step on a journey.
Hope is mixing yeast into the dough.
Hope is the tear you shed
when you see injustice done to another.
Hope is waiting for the sun to rise.
Hope is singing "O Come Emmanuel".
Hope is the prayer you whisper,
that no one can or will hear.
Hope is all you are left with
when all you have had is lost.
Hope is planting crocus bulbs
and then later watching the snow melt.
Hope is waiting for shooting stars in the night sky.
Hope is opening a note from a loved one.
Hope is confessing your fear.
Hope stands firm.
Hope also lets go.
Hope is raising children.
Hope is holding the hand of one who is dying.
Hope is closing your eyes.
Hope is opening them again.

~ from our NY Conference Minister, Rev. David Gaewski
in this week's *Happenings*

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<https://www.uccny.org/our-thoughts/happenings-around-our-conference/>