
+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Service of Worship 10 a.m.
1ST Sunday After Christmas, December 30, 2018

*Indicates for those who are able to, please stand.
Bold print indicates congregational response.
NCH = New Century Hymnal (black cover)
HOP = Spiral bound cover

Scripture Reader is Betty Neth
Coffee Hour is Betty Neth & Marilyn Panico

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE *"I am the Light of the World"*
NCH 584 refrain
***I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love / you'll learn the mystery of / what
you were meant to do and be.***

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God's promise has been revealed!
P: With joyous hearts, we declare God's goodness and hope.
L: For unto us a child is born, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
P: Let us rejoice and praise the newborn King!

***OPENING HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High**
NCH 125

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ("God, we're sorry), in unison:
**God of eternal hope, you place a light into every darkness
and a star in every sky, and yet there are times we prefer to
walk in the darkness of despair. We cover over the light of
possibility with a flurry of worry. We fear the worst and
distrust the best. We forge ahead on our own, not noticing
your outstretched hand. Forgive us, we pray, and remind us
yet again that there is never a moment that you are not with
us; that your Son was called Emmanuel, which means "God
with us." Fill us with hope and confidence as you guide us
by the light of your love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ("God forgives us") Rev. Keene

CHORAL RESPONSE: "The First Nowell", chorus only
NCH 139
***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born in a manger,
Emmanuel.***

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament Isaiah 9:2-7

MESSAGE: "Lingering in the Mystery"
Rev. Keene

PRAYER INTRO: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" NCH 116,
verse 1

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERTORY INVITATION
Rev. Keene

OFFERTORY: "In the Bleak Midwinter" NCH 128 verses
1,3,4

***DOXOLOGY: Lyrics: NCH #778; Tune: NCH #780**
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR GIFTS & PLEDGES
**Having received grace upon grace by your generous hand,
we offer these gifts to you, O God, as an expression of our
love, devotion, and obedience. May your love for us lead us
to use this offering to further the work of your church to
bring justice and assistance to an ailing world. In Jesus’
name we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN “Let There Be Peace on Earth” HOP 127

*COMMISSION

*Let us now go forth into the world in peace, being of good
courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no
one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted,
supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all
persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the
power of the Holy Spirit.*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Keene

POSTLUDE



1st Sunday after Christmas December 30, 2018



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