

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Church

PO Box 350, 28 High Street, Wiscasset, Maine 04578
207-882-7544, www.uccwiscasset.org



We welcome you to the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset.

VISION: We are on a journey to reflect God's love, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of all.

MISSION: Together we strive to praise God, grow in faith, cultivate love, spread joy, care for all people and God's creation, promote peace, and do justice.

December 14, 2025

First Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 14, 2025

We welcome all to our worship service, whether present in the sanctuary, joining us on streaming video, or watching our service in the future.

FOR YOUR CONTEMPLATION

“Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.”
Henri Nouwen

PRELUDE *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

P: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

L: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

P: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

L: We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

P: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

L: Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

P: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

INVOCATION TO PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Reader: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us – in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations – or our memories – push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Three candles are lit.

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1)

No. 114

JOYS AND CONCERNS: After each Joy or Concern please respond:

Pastor: “Lord,” Congregation: “**Hear our Prayer**”

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Global Mission Partner Prayer this week : Taiwan

MORNING PRAYER FOLLOWED BY SILENT PRAYER AND 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Wait for the Lord

Taize

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46b-55

Liturgist: This is the Word of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

No. 127

‘May We all Break Out into Song’

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

No. 149

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Good King Wenceslas/Angels We Have Heard on High

You are invited to sit for the postlude.

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin”

**Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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Those serving you today:

Minster and Teacher: Rev. John Hogue

Guest Pianist: Roger Whitney

Ushers: Cindy Clement and Angie Eddy

Reader: Allison Crosscup

Advent Candle Lighting: Karl and Deb Olson

Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said,
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Liturgist: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2. My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3. Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease,
 4. Glo-ry to God, and praise and love be ev-er, ev-er given

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of God's grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; adapt. Lowell Mason, *Modern Psalmody*, 1839

AZMON

CM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

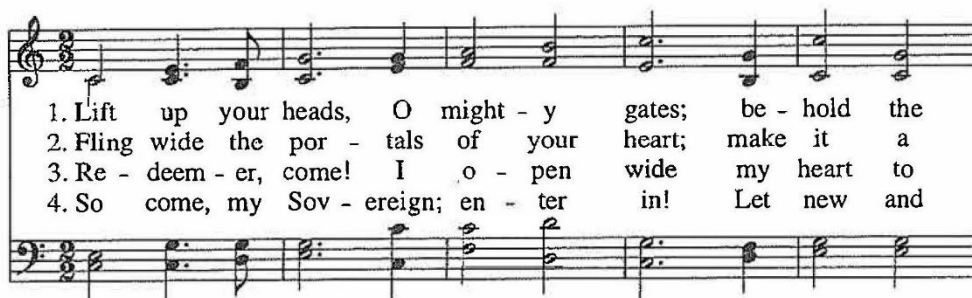
til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

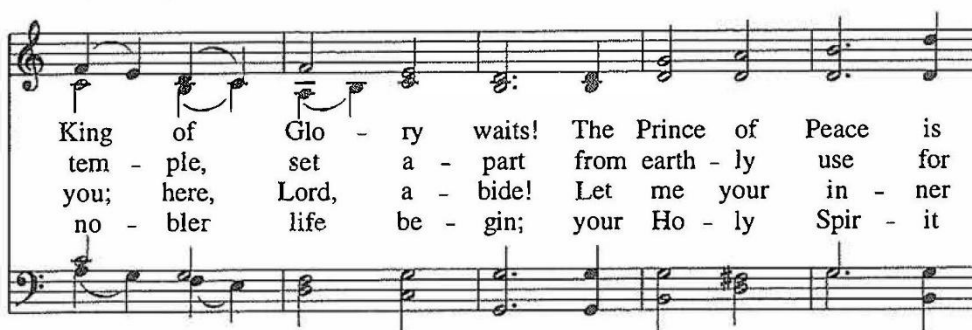
WORDS: Latin: c. 9th century; sts. 1,2, tr. John M. Neale, 1851; sts. 3,4, tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1916 VENI EMMANUEL
 MUSIC: French melody, 15th century, arr., harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854 LM w. refrain

Anglican Oxford Movement Neale translated this hymn which originated in the seven Great 'O' antiphons that were traditional for vespers during Advent. The refrain was added in the 13th century.

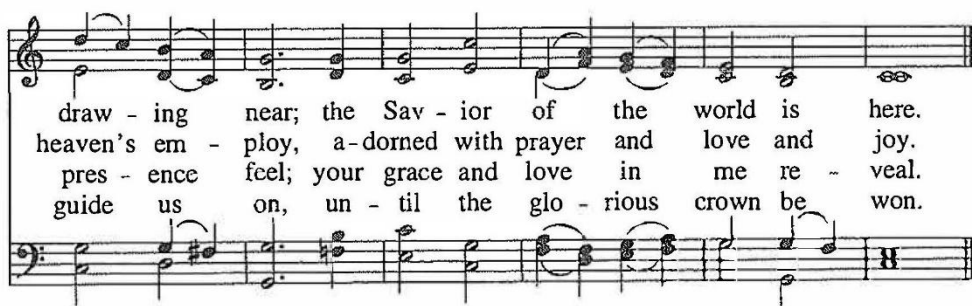
Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates 127



1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; be - hold the
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 4. So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and



King of Glo - ry waits! The Prince of Peace is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 you; here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner
 no - bler life be - gin; your Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

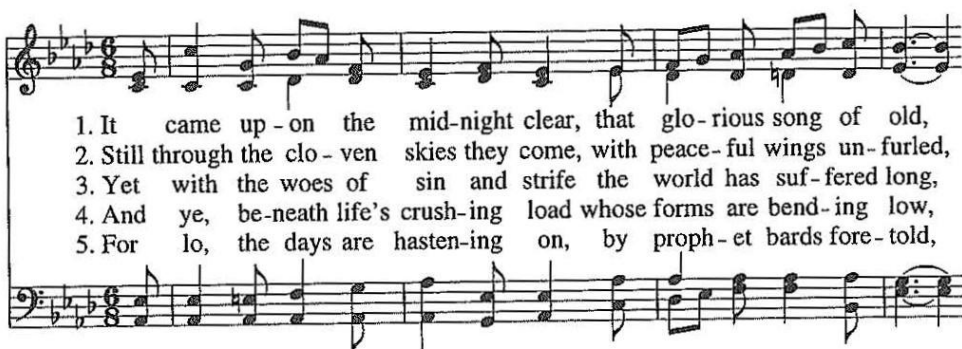
WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
LM

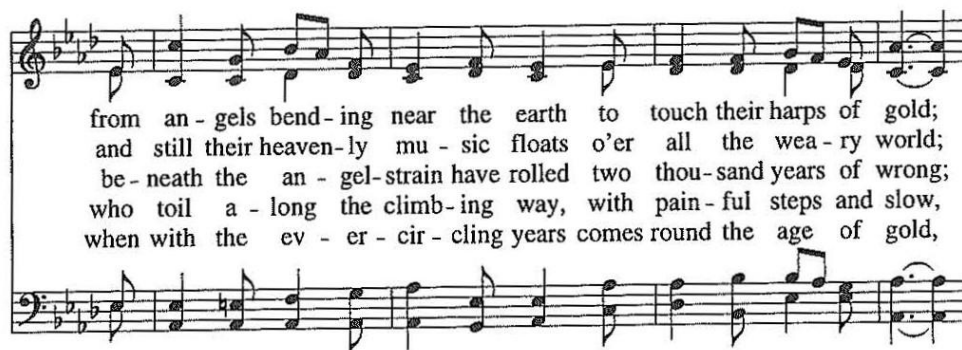
Georg Weissel, pastor of Altgrossgart Church in
 Königsberg, Prussia, based this hymn on Psalm 24.

ADVENT

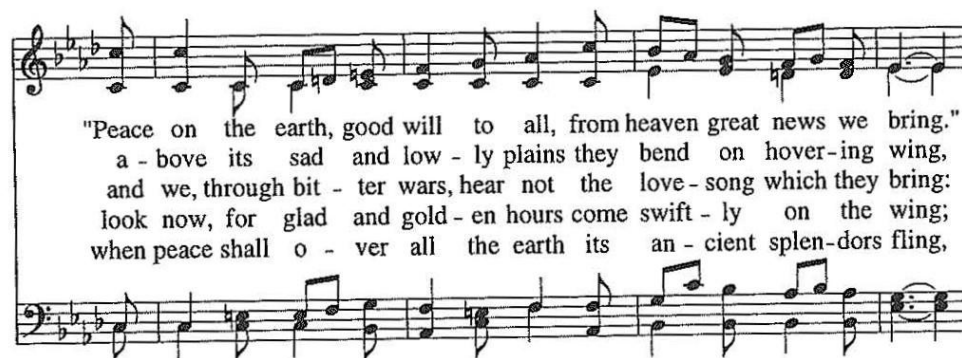
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up - on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long,
 4. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load whose forms are bend - ing low,
 5. For lo, the days are hasten - ing on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heaven - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 be - neath the an - gel - strain have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven great news we bring."
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hover - ing wing,
 and we, through bit - ter wars, hear not the love - song which they bring:
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849, alt.
 MUSIC: Richard S. Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD

Massachusetts Unitarian Sears' poem is one of the first American hymns to stress the social implications of the angels' message of peace. Stanza 3, often omitted, is here restored to the text.

Please join us for fellowship, coffee or tea, and refreshments in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Please take note of the colored paper prayer slips in the pew rack. These are for you to write a word or phrase of prayer or concerns. Fold it and place it in the offering plate. It will only be shared with Rev. John.

Happy December Birthday to John Crispin, Anita Green, Sue Lewis, Jon McKinney, and Chris Sieracki.

Help Yourself Shelf Wish List

Cereal * Coffee * tea * Canned stew and soup * Baked Beans * Pasta * Ramen
Canned meats * Condiments * Pancake mix * Toothbrushes * Pet Food & litter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Campaign

If you have not yet dropped off your pledge card for 2026, please drop it at the office or send it to the church (PO Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578).

Organ Society Cookie Sale Today

Platefuls of delicious holiday cookies will be available after church. Each plate will contain several varieties of cookies for only \$5.

Organ Society Luncheon Wednesday December 17 12:00pm

If you plan to attend and have not yet signed up, please contact Martha Speed at martha.speed@hotmail.com or 882-6842.

"The Christmas Fund" has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The collection will take place during worship on December 21.

Sunday, December 14	Choir Practice 9:00am Third Sunday in Advent Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 15	Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:00pm Mah Jongg 6:00 – 8:30pm
Tuesday, December 16	Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday, December 17	Rev. John's Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm FOS packing in the activity room upstairs 10:30am Organ Society Luncheon 12:00pm
Thursday, December 18	Office Hours 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sunday, December 21	Choir Practice 8:10am Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 10:00am Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall Organ Concert 2:00pm

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First Congregational Church UCC
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Sexton: Mary McKinney
Office Administrator: Beth Maxwell

Church Office Email – fccw@myfairpoint.net
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Church Website – www.uccwiscasset.org

Shining the Light of Christ
FIRST
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CHURCH
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