

We rejoice in our community of faith,
strengthened by diversity,
including diversity of culture,
economic status, age, ethnicity,
race, gender, sexual orientation,
gender identity, marital status, and
physical or mental abilities.

We affirm that God is glorified when
we welcome all people
to our spiritual community,
as Jesus did.

Wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GLEN ELLYN

A community of Christian discipleship,
grounded in tradition,
centered in worship,
called to serve,
fortified by justice,
sustained by peace,
free to dream.

The Order of Worship
First Sunday of Advent—November 28, 2021

Prelude “Affinity” by Jeff Haeger
Jeff Haeger, piano

Welcome Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

Lighting the Advent Candle: Hope The Smith/Orr Family: Fraser, Debra, Channing and Dexter

Please remain seated.

Song of Invocation † *Leader sings the first time; join in singing one time.*

Invocation is a prayer in which we call upon God’s presence with us in worship centering ourselves and remembering God’s ever presence.

If in your heart you make a man-ger for his birth, then
God will once a - gain be-come a child on earth, If earth.

Words by Angelus Silesius (1624-1677), tr. by Stephen Mitchell, music Copyright © 2007 by Ana Hernandez. Used by permission

Unison Prayer of Confession † Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

Confession and Absolution are important parts of worship in which we reflect, in community, on the ways we all are human and fall short. Admitting our brokenness is essential part of faith, reminding us that only God is perfect and that in confession we are always loved and forgiven.

Every day, we have a choice—
To stay homesick for the world You had in mind, or to allow despair to win.
Do we hope against hope, or do we give up?
Forgive us for giving up.
Forgive us for numbing our hurt, instead of using it to fuel a better world.
Kindle a fire in us that won’t let go.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Response † *Join in singing two times.*

John Bell, Iona Community

Ve - ni, ve - ni, ve - ni, ve - ni, ve - ni, ve - ni Im - man - u - el.

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† Please stand.

Following the Confession Response, Christian Education staff and leaders invite the children in preschool through 5th grade to join them at the back of the Sanctuary to adjourn to the Rainbow Studio (upper level) for Church School. Children may be picked up from this location following worship.

Call for the Offering

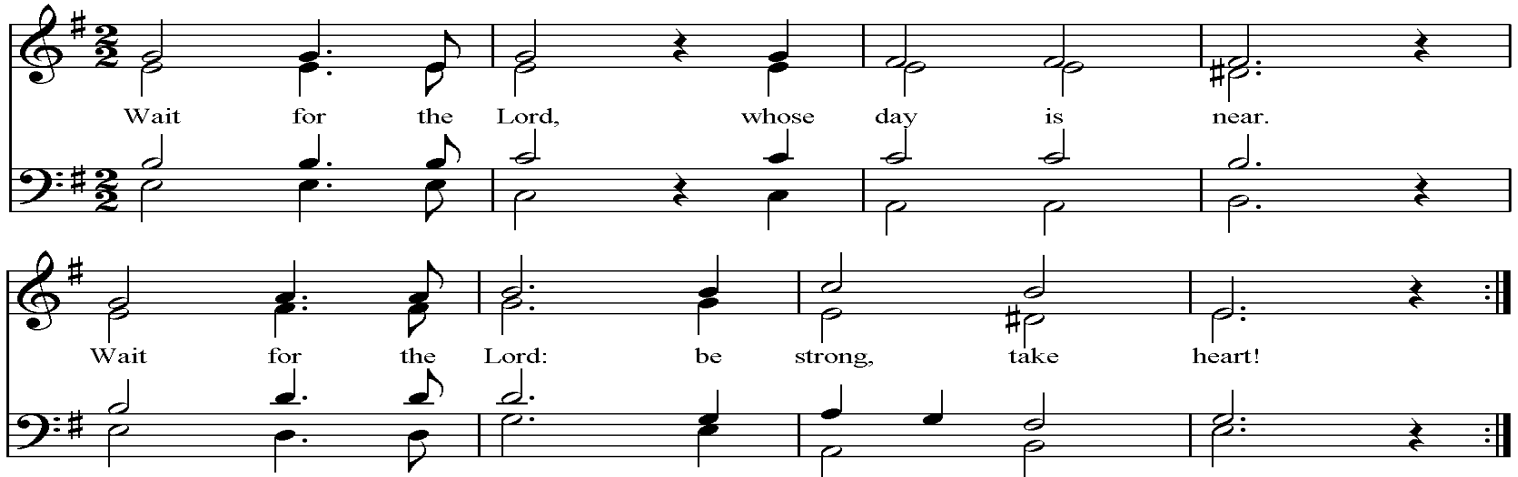
Tom Petrich, Worship Leader

With this QR code, you can simply open your camera on your phone, hold it over the square and it will take you right to FCCGE's online giving form. Or, you can always drop something in the offering plate in the Narthex.



Time of Preparation

Leader sings the first time; join in singing one time.



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: Wait be strong, take heart!

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Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

Pastoral Prayer, is Jewish in origin. The central concern for prayer in the assembly is for “others,” that is, intercessory prayers. This prayer lifts up members of our faith community, where we live, our country and world.

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison)

Lord’s Prayer, is that prayer which scripture tells us Jesus taught his disciples in the Gospels.

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.

Prayer Response

Join in singing “Wait for the Lord” two more times.

Introduction to Scripture

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

Scripture, the reading, is either established by the pastors to meet some theme (sermon series) or comes from the lectionary, a three-year cycle which assigns the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (and the other readings) to a particular church year.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Tom Petrich, Worship Leader

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sermon, or proclamation of the Word just read, is also from the synagogue tradition and has its roots deeply embedded in the Hebrew practice of Midrash, a form of creative interpretation.

Hymn †

116

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710
 Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
 St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Unison

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

In the medieval Western church, seven "Great O" antiphons, the basis for this hymn, were sung consecutively on the seven days before Christmas, ending with what appears above as the first stanza.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain
 Melody from a 15th-century French "Processional"
 Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854
 (public domain)

Sending Forth †

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

This marks the end of worship and the beginning of us being sent out to respond to God's love in the world. Our true response to the Liturgy, and our life as Christians, begins when we leave the worship space to accomplish God's ministry and mission in our world.

Postlude

“Sanctuary” by Carrie Newcomer
Jackie McCarthy, vocals; Jeff Haeger, piano

As you leave, introduce yourself to someone new, or to someone whose name you have forgotten.

Our Worship Service

Thank you for reserving the last two rows of pews on both sides of the sanctuary for members and guests with accessibility concerns.

Ushers

Bill Baedke, Susan & Joe Selzer, Fay Shong, Jim Springer

Music Notes

Song Leader is Paula Rada.

Thank you to Jackie McCarthy (vocals), for special music today

Flowers on the Lord's Table are donated by

Ray and Melissa Cliff

“In honor of our 63rd wedding anniversary and the blessings of our lives”

Joys

The Smith/Orr Family: Fraser, Debra, Channing and Dexter,
for lighting the Advent candle today

Concerns

Clara Hughes and family, on the death of Clara's mother, Clara Fiedler

Paul Congdon, father of Teresa Exner, hospitalized

Pastor Availability Should you need a pastor, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Seth (630-207-0118 or seth@fccge.org), or Pastor Kendra (704-798-7083 or kendra@fccge.org).

Assisted Listening System Available During the recent restoration, FCCGE installed an assisted listening system in our Sanctuary. During services, this system will deliver audio to an enabled hearing aid or, in the absence of a hearing aid, to an earpiece available from the ushers. Details are available from our ushers or on the website.

Worship We are excited to worship together in the Sanctuary. As a faith community, we center around belief of love and care for one another. Given the Covid-19 rates in DuPage County at this time, we ask that vaccinated and unvaccinated folks mask for worship. *We will continue to make an effort to limit services to 45 minutes.*

Stay Informed

New Exhibit in Our Artists in Residence Gallery *Immanuel/God with Us: The Wonder of the Incarnation* celebrates Jesus' life on earth, seen through the eyes and imagination of 23 artists from 10 countries, using many forms of media to tell their stories. The exhibition begins with the Annunciation and His birth, follows His ministry, and then moves through His Passion and Resurrection, culminating with His Ascension. Be sure to stop by the gallery and see this amazing collection.

Time to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias! It wouldn't be Christmas without our historic Sanctuary laden with poinsettias on Christmas Eve! (OK, it would *be Christmas*, just not as pretty.) It's not too early to think about ordering. Poinsettias may be taken home after the 10:30 pm service, or you may donate them by simply leaving them in the Sanctuary. *Order from the link in your Thursday noon eblast. Contact Jennifer Darnall with questions (darfamily@aol.com). **Order deadline is today!***

Advent Adult Education *Wednesdays, December 1, 8 and 15 at 7:00 pm* This Advent Season, as the days shorten and nights lengthen, we prepare for the Light of the world to be born again, even in this weird mask-wearing world. Maybe there is wisdom, even comfort, we can find in the darkness. We will be reading together Barbra Brown Taylor's, Learning to Walk In the Darkness, offering in-person or Zoom options for gathering. Register from your Thursday eblast, fccge.org, or the FCC app, whether you are attending in-person or on Zoom. If you have questions, contact Pastor Kendra (kendra@fccge.org).

- 1st Gathering: Wednesday, December 1, 7:00 pm at church; Sunday, December 5, 7:00 pm via Zoom
- 2nd Gathering: Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 pm at church; Sunday, December 12, 7:00 pm via Zoom
- 3rd Gathering: Wednesday, December 15, 7:00 pm at church; Sunday, December 19, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Adult Education: Making Room at the Inn *Sundays, December 5 & 12, 10:30 am, in Pilgrim Hall* In this season of Advent, as we prepare for Christ's coming into the world, may we reflect about the ways we make room for Christ in our midst today; the ways we make room for Christ in our own Glen Ellyn and DuPage County. Roger and Clara Hughes will give a presentation on attainable housing in our area, and lead us in a conversation - inviting us to be part of the room-makers. *(Also available via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82396720553>.) Contact Clara (clara.marie.hughes@gmail.com) with questions.*

Newcomers Information Session For those interested in learning more about joining FCCGE and the United Church of Christ, there will be an informal gathering for newcomers **Sunday, December 5, 10:45 am – 11:45 pm in the Chapel.** *Available joining dates following this session are January 16 and March 20. For further information, contact Rev. Seth Ethan Carey (seth@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 12).*

Social Justice Group We are fortunate to have Maryam Ghouse, the Volunteer Coordinator of the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center, speak at our next social justice meeting on **Wednesday, December 8, at 7:00 pm, in the Chapel.** Feel free to bring a friend who may be interested in helping a child from a different country learn basic math, reading, and writing skills.

Longest Night Service *Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 pm* This service typically occurs around the longest night of the year—marking the way that darkness is part of our lives, physically and spiritually, during this time. We know this season is a particularly difficult one for many of us as tinny music blasts from store fronts and cheery faces are plastered on passers by. Some of us are lonely, some of us are grieving, some of us are struggling with mental health, health diagnoses, with divorce, with estrangement from family. We make space for our weary and heavy hearts to settle into a spiritual home that welcomes us just as we are to lift laments and know this, too, is worship and holy.

Christmas Eve Services We are thrilled we will be back together this year for in-person Christmas Eve services! In order to gather, practicing proper Covid protocol and distancing, we will be offering four services that day: 10:30 am Children's Pageant, 4:00 pm Lessons and Carols, 7:00 pm Lessons and Carols, and 10:30 pm Lesson and Carols. *More details coming soon!*

A New Year - Creative You We will be inviting folks from church to be part of *The Artists Way* group, led by Pastor Kendra. The group will use the book by that name to explore their inner creativity and make space for the ways God's Holy creative Spirit works in us all! *Group will meet virtually on Sundays, January 9 through March 27, 7:00 pm on Zoom.*

Help Others

The Service & Justice Committee learned that our mission partner, World Relief, has begun receiving Afghan refugees in Chicagoland. They expect to receive 150 from Afghanistan in the next couple of months as well as another 750 refugees from other countries over the coming year. They have an urgent need for volunteers who can help with apartment set-ups and transportation. Volunteers for these assignments will serve on an ad-hoc basis per their own availability, rather than on a routine basis. *If you are interested in becoming a resource, please contact Julia Kling (julia.kling@gmail.com).*

Onward House Gift Appeal The yearly Onward House Gift Appeal will begin soon. Every year, Onward House, located in Chicago, provides us with the names of 200 children and we have the opportunity to make these children's Christmases a day of joy and giving by purchasing toys and clothes for them. *Names are available, with gifts due back to FCCGE the morning of December 19. Instructions are in your Thursday noon e-newsletter. Contact Marge Kovatch with questions (630-642-6421).*

Family Food Drive for the Holidays *Today through December 24* Here's a great family project to help the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry over the holidays! Collect a different food item each day of Advent (*November 28 to December 24*). Drop your donations at your church during Christmas services or to the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, January 3 – 7, between 9-11 am each day. *You can find the GEFP Advent Calendar at <https://www.glenellynfoodpantry.org>.*

Children & Youth

Register for the 2021-22 Program Year! Formerly called "Youth Education Registration," the Family Registration form is now available. We encourage you to register, as it helps us plan our year. *You may access the form from your Thursday noon e-newsletter (from the article or permanent link at the bottom of the newsletter), fccge.org or the FCCGE app.*

Church School Will Meet in Rainbow Studio Rainbow Studio is on the upper level and is the 2nd classroom north of the elevator. We have special lessons about "The Temple, a House for God" and the introduction to our Advent theme, "Making Room at the Inn." We will be decorating an edible version of our church for the Glen Ellyn Historic Society contest in partnership with Grace Lutheran Church. We are an Open and Affirming congregation and Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and our two "gingerbread" churches will be connected by a rainbow of jelly beans depicting Forest Avenue and proclaiming "You are welcome here."

Gingerbread and Candlelight: A Holiday Celebration for the Whole Family We invite the congregation to the public viewing of our Church School's entry, "You are welcome here," on **Saturday, December 4, 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main Street.** *Adult admission is \$5 and children are free. Each admission includes refreshments, a candlelight tour of Stacy's Tavern Museum, and the opportunity to make crafts.*

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin Next Sunday, December 5 Pageant cast and parent volunteers meet in the Sanctuary from 10:30 am to 11:15 am for Sunday morning rehearsals, December 5, 12, and 19. *For details or questions, contact Pageant Director, Cathy Basso (cathy@fccge.org or 630-469-3096 ext. 19).*

Supporting Adolescents & Teens Through Uncertain Times—Glen Ellyn Youth and Family Counseling Services (GEYFCS) We are excited to announce that GEYFCS is offering a 6-week support group this fall. The focus of the group will be for students to share/connect, reduce feelings of isolation and to develop coping skills and emotional regulation. The group is for middle school and high school students who attend Glen Ellyn schools. Middle school students and high school student will be in separate groups. The groups will begin once the available spaces are filled. Sessions will be held on Monday evenings at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn (non-affiliated). The group is provided free of charge. *Contact GEYFCS if you are interested (630-469-3040 or geyfcsc@outlook.com) if you are interested!*

Calendar [events in brackets indicate off-site or virtual]

Sunday, November 28—*First Sunday of Advent*

- 9:30 am Worship & Church School (*children begin in worship*)
- 9:30 am 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Classes
- 10:30 am Advent Fest
- No 3-4-5 Fellowship
- 6:30 pm Sr. High Fellowship

Monday, November 29—*No meetings*

Tuesday, November 30

- 7:30 pm Handbells rehearsal

Wednesday, December 1

- [11:30 am Men's Luncheon at 7 Dwarfs]
- [12:00 pm Noon Prayer Zoom]
- 7:00 pm Book Discussion Group

Thursday, December 2

- 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Friday & Saturday, December 3 & 4 - *No meetings*

Sunday, December 5—*Second Sunday of Advent*

- 9:30 am Worship & Church School (*children begin in worship, then depart for Church School—returning for Communion*)
- 9:30 am 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Classes
- 10:30 am Pageant rehearsal #1
- 10:30 am Adult Education—Making Room
- 10:30 am Soul Sisters
- 10:45 am Newcomers Information Session
- 6:30 pm Sr. High Fellowship

Upcoming:

- Sunday, December 12, 10:30 am - Pageant rehearsal #2
- Sunday, December 19, 10:30 am - Pageant rehearsal #3
- Thursday, December 23, 9:30 am - Pageant dress rehearsal

To Our Guests

Church Parking Lot Reminder Thank you to everyone for pulling forward in our double parking spaces. This maximizes parking lot capacity. Please remember to fill out a card if you have blocked someone in (these are located between the double doors of the Parking lot entrance).

Parking on the Street Please be courteous to our neighbors and allow plenty of room near fire hydrants and neighbors' driveways when parking on the street.

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister (seth@fccge.org; ext. 12)
Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller, Associate Minister (kendra@fccge.org; ext. 11)

535 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
630-469-3096
fccge.org

Our denomination is the United Church of Christ ucc.org