

**COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF CHULA VISTA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30 A.M.

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey, you are welcome here!*

Welcome! Mabuhay! Bienvenidos!

We welcome you in the name of the still speaking God!
We invite all *guests* to please **PRINT** their name and contact info
on the “*Information Card*” in the pew rack and place the card
in the offering plate. Anyone with a prayer request,
please put it on the “*Information Card*”
and place it in the offering plate.
If you need assistance, please ask our Greeters.

Church Staff and Contact List

(619) 422-9263

www.chulavistachurch.com

Email: churchsecretary@chulavistachurch.com

P.O. Box 5574 Chula Vista, CA 91912

Rev. Victoria Freiheit - Senior Minister

Lionel Jasmin - Minister of Music

Kim Appleget - Pre-school Director

Erika Dennis - Prayer Chain Coordinator

Sylvia Campbell - Event Coordinator

Corinne McCall - Financial Secretary

Pelito Capistrano - Custodian

Louise Lopez - Office Secretary

Audio Visual Team- Kevin Hewitt, Ko Tangen, Jerry May

Nathan Purificacion - Moderator

Chris Dunn - Coffee Hour

Rueben Barrera - Head Usher

Greeters: Luz Barrera & Cet Quiroz

Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista
United Church of Christ
December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude:

Lionel Jasmin & Alejandro Tapia

Gathering Music:

1. O come let us adore Him
2. Go, tell it on the mountain
3. Gloria in excelsis Deo
4. It's a great day to praise the Lord

Welcome and Announcements:

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

Liturgist:

Suzanne Persaud

***Hymn:**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel NCH p. 116 v.1,2,5 & 7

Call to Worship: (Responsively)

Suzanne Persaud

One: God's passionate love for all creation bursts into a sacred flame,
producing a light for all to see.

All: **Now may our souls kindle like brushwood—with fire for the first candle of Advent.**

One: Let us pray together:

All: **God of creative love, your Spirit fills the universe with life. We know that presenting Christ to the world will mean great changes. Mold us gently and help us to place our Christmas hopes into your hands. For we pray in the name of the one nurtured in Mary's womb, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*** Hymn:**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates NCH p. 117 all verses

The Meaning of the Advent Candles

Purificacion Family

Five simple candles tell the meaning of Christ's birth and the reasons God sent His only Son to the earth. . .On this first Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Hope. In the coming weeks we will light the candles of Peace, Joy and Love. And finally, the candle of Christ to remind us of the reason we rejoice and celebrate the Christmas season. Today we light the candle of Hope to remind us of the prophets' words and the promises they shared with all those who heard.

Advent Music:

Whispering Hope

Choir Anthem: Christ Was Born to Be Our King (A Christmas Communion Anthem)

*** Please stand if you are able**

Children's Story:

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

Scripture included in Sermon:

Cultivate Hope

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

COMMUNION

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.

We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior.

We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now, as they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you do it, in remembrance of me."

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Come Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks Almighty God that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Call to Offering: Unison

Suzanne Persaud

Let us give as each is able, according to the blessings God has given each of us. Amen.

Offertory:

We Celebrate

Russell T. Leuck

***Doxology:**

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.

*** Prayer of Dedication: Unison**

Suzanne Persaud

Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way; from the night of anxious keeping, lose us into generous day. Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span, God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began. Amen

***Closing Hymn:**

Jesus Is Coming Again Red p.305 all verses

***Benediction:**

Rev. Victoria Freiheit

Form a circle **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Maker, All one Family.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment, and live each moment

With peace eternally,

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

Postlude:

Lionel Jasmin & Alejandro Tapia

Advent: Finding the Balance Between the Sacred and Secular

Advent & Advent Calendars

Advent Wreaths

The advent wreath is used by Christians as way of symbolizing the coming of Jesus, the light, into the world. The advent wreath consists of four candles mounted around the circumference of an evergreen wreath. These candles are usually purple or blue which are the liturgical colors for Advent and symbolize royalty. Sometimes one of these four candles is pink and there may be a fifth white candle in the center of the wreath.

Each week beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas an additional candle is lighted. On the first Sunday one candle is lit. On the second two and so on until all four are lit the Sunday before Christmas. If there is a pink candle it is usually the third candle. If there is a white candle in the center, it is lit on Christmas Eve and all through the 12 days of Christmas. This progression of light represents the coming of light into the world.

Announcements

WE WELCOME YOU to the Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. To our visitors we extend a special greeting. We are delighted that you have joined us today. Please sign the information card and let us know if you need prayers.

TUESDAY	December 12th
9:30 AM	Quilters meet in small dining room
4:00 PM	AYOP – meeting In Bradley Hall
7:00 PM	AA – meeting in Lounge
THURSDAY	December 14th
7:00 PM	Choir Practice
FRIDAY	December 15th
10:00 AM	Bible Study
SATURDAY	December 16th
10:00 AM	Art Group meeting in small dining room
SUNDAY	December 17th Cantata
9:30 AM	Worship Service
10:30 AM	Fellowship and coffee