

Fear change, and it will destroy you; embrace change, and it will enlarge you. . . . things do change, whether people want them to or not. A man can lie beside the pool for weeks, for years, thinking about the angel coming down before someone stops to ask him if he wants to be healed....

Elizabeth Moon, The Speed of Dark, 21st c., CUF Book Group selection

Now that I look back, it seems to me that in all that deep darkness a miracle was preparing. So I am right to remember it as a blessed time, and myself as waiting in confidence, even if I had no idea what I was waiting for.

Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st c.

The very least you can do in your life is figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.

Barbara Kingsolver, Animal Dreams, 20th c.

Hope is the struggle of the soul, breaking loose from what is perishable, and attesting her eternity.

Herman Melville, 19th c.

Prayer Candles: Is there a person or relationship that needs a prayer?

Please come forward and light an individual prayer candle before our worship begins.

Greeting One Another in Peace and Friendship Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* Gustav Holst
CUF Middle Ringers; Rachel Dobbs, *Director*

The Centering Silence

Lighting the Candle of Common Good Anyia Fox and Cathy Marquez
Our church is part of a worldwide community seeking to articulate and reaffirm the common good. We know the Holy Spirit is acting to create this kind of world. Listening and learning are sacred duties in considering the spiritual, social and relational needs of others. May we be attentive to seeing and discerning what the presence of God is doing and to follow it and add to it without fear.

The CUF Worship Team

The Introit *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Fr. carol arr. M.L.Thompson
Bodwell Memorial Hand Bell Choir; Rachel Dobbs, *Director*

* **The Gathering Hymn** *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming* # 136

* The Call to Worship

L: Wake up, people of God! The Word of God is coming to dwell among us!

P: World, watch! Do not sleep! For the realm of God is near!

L: Let us prepare for the unexpected to break into our lives.

Let us be alert to the signs of the coming of God.

**P: Out of our silent night, out of our midnight clear,
with all the heavens and earth,
we wait, we listen, we look, we prepare.**

L: God be in our waiting.

P: Glory be to God! Amen.

The Gathering Prayer (*insert*)

The Advent Wreath *The Candle of Peace* Joyce and Paul Harris
Joyce and Paul: Will you come into our world, God? Will you come with peace? For we have too much brokenness, not enough wholeness; too much frantic activity, not enough calm; too many worries, not enough dreams.

The People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Bring peace. Bring peace when you come.

The Advent Hymn (*seated*) *One Candle Is Lit* # 128 (verse 2)

**Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**

The Anthem *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* arr. Jason W. Krug
Bodwell Memorial Hand Bell Choir; Rachel Dobbs, *Director*

Moments of Goodness Young Adults With Pizzazz

Eli McGill Nora Dobbs Joy Wasson

Time for the Child in Each of Us

Sing Our Children to Sunday School (*seated*) *Go Now In Peace* #437(twice)

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

The Prayer Hymn (*seated*) *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* # 125

The Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) *New Zealand Book of Prayer*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,**

Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe.

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth.

May your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

**May your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Congregational Response Taize Community

**Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire
that never dies away, never dies away.**

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that never dies away, never dies away.**

The Offering Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

**In this Advent season, when the past has fled, unasked, away
and there is nothing left to do but wait,**

empower our lives, O God, to be filled with love,

so that in loving others, we bear witness to your love for us. Amen.

The Offering and The Offertory *A Carol of the Nativity* Ireland

* **The Doxology** # 124

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

The Song of Zechariah *Luke 1:68-79* # 137

The Gospel Reading *Luke 3:1-6* Kathy Barry, *Liturgist*

The Sermon *Heart Prep* Reverend Grenfell

* **The Parting Hymn** *When God Is a Child* # 132

* **The Benediction**

* **The Choral Benediction (*unison*)** *Starchild* Carlton R. Young

Star Child, Earth Child, go-between of God,

Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod.

This year, this year, let the day arrive

When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive.

* **The Postlude** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Walther

December Plate Offering

Marked gifts (check or envelope)

PLEDGE:

**Your weekly/monthly/annual
commitment
to the life of our church.**

CEVER SCHOOL, HONDURAS

Our CUF youth have traditionally chosen our benevolence giving recipient for the month of December. This year, they have chosen Cever, a school in Yoro, Honduras. Cever serves students between the ages of 12-24 who enroll to study in the technical areas of auto-mechanics, welding, industrial mechanics, sewing and woodworking, and have the option of pursuing basic educational courses. CEVER is a transformational place, where Honduran youth are empowered to get some of the few well-paying jobs in Honduras. Our donations support the CEVER School financially, spiritually, and emotionally.

You can also support the CEVER school by purchasing Honduras Partnership coffee! This is **Organic Fair Trade Maine-Roasted...DELICIOUS coffee! ...and for a great cause!** When you purchase a 12 oz bag of Honduras Partnership coffee, \$2 will go to the CEVER vocational school in Yoro, Honduras. The coffee is from Fair Trade and Organic certified small farms in Honduras, so the growers benefit from your purchase as they receive a fair price for their coffee. Visit the website of Wicked Joe's Coffee (Topsham, Maine), to order your Honduras Partnership Coffee today: www.wickedjoe.com

**Please make checks payable to
The Church of Universal Fellowship.**

**Memo your check or
mark your envelope:**

Pledge or Cever

Please put your name on envelopes.

Unmarked donations will go to Open Doors.

October/November Benevolences:

Backpack Program \$150.00
Indian Island Food Pantry \$165.00
Thanksgiving Baskets \$498.00