

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINTER PARK



First Sunday of Advent

God is still speaking,

*"a traditional and nurturing church celebrating God's grace through reason, education,
diversity, inclusion, and social justice"*

We are an Open and Affirming Church

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

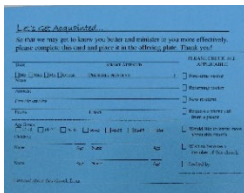
WELCOME

***This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice because we are glad to be here!***



Sign the red attendance pad that is located in the pew seat near the center aisle and pass it to the next person.

We want to know that you were here!



Visitors may complete a “Let’s Get Acquainted” card, located in the pew racks, and place the card in the offering plate.

We are here to answer your questions!



SILENCE your technology but still “check-in” and use social media and share our website and portions of our worship that inspire you!



Continue to help us reduce our carbon footprint. If you are not receiving the bulletin via email, and would like to, please contact the church office – 407-647-2416. The bulletin can also be found on our website, fccwp.org. Go to the tab labeled “Bulletin” and locate the appropriate pdf file.



Continue to open up your ‘What’s Happening’ newsletter emails to keep up-to-date on all of the weekly and monthly events. Or visit our website at www.fccwp.org. There is a lot happening in the life of this church and you do not want to miss a thing!



If you have a **prayer need or a joy to share**, please fill out the white prayer request card located in the pew pockets and drop it in the collection plate. We will place your prayer need on our confidential prayer chain. If you wish to have a joy or a need announced in church, permission must be given by calling the church office.



Kindly silence all cell phones during worship

✱ All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand

Preparing to Hear God's Word

PRELUDE
WELCOME
INTROIT

Rev. Shawn Garvey
Chancel Choir

"Let All Mortal Flesh "

Holst

Please refrain from applauding

✱ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Garvey

People: "Proclaim with joy, 'Let us go to the house of our God and find hope within!'"

✱ OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (V.1,2&6)

No. 116

✱ OPENING PRAYER

✱ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Hope

✱ PASSING OF THE PEACE

All children please come forward for Young Church

YOUNG CHURCH

Kerry Weisner

"The Lord's Prayer or Prayer of Our Savior"

Age four years through kindergarten may leave for Sunday school in the LIBRARY. Grades 1-5 and 6-12 may leave for Sunday school in the UPSTAIRS Fellowship Hall. Childcare for infants through 3 years old is available in the PARLOR located at the back of Fellowship Hall.

Please check your child out with the teacher. Children are only released to the parent.

** SONG OF SUPPORT

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings.*

HEBREW

Isaiah 2:1-5

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

"Rise Up Shepherd"

Chancel Choir

Dett

Please refrain from applauding

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE

"Not Enough"

Rev. Shawn Garvey

Part of the meaning of this rather long section of John's Gospel is that a sign alone is not enough for a journey of faith: we must each discern and come to know the meaning of the sign. This is very much at the heart of the dialogue between Jesus and the crowd after the miracle of the bread and the fish. When you perceive signs in your life, do you dig deeper to find their meaning, even if that meaning is difficult?

Responding to God's Word

CALL TO PRAYER/JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Garvey

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Offertory

"God's Son is Coming"

Helmut Walcha

Please refrain from applauding

*Doxology (Old Hundredth)

**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

Rev, Garvey

*CLOSING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

No. 117

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Garvey

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

Chancel Choir

Lutkin

Please refrain from applauding



In Remembrance

The flowers on the altar today are given Bill and Judy Sheldon, in loving memory of their son, Bill.

Christmas Eve Services – Wednesday December 24

Join us as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!

- **5:00 PM – Family Service: A festive, child-friendly service for all ages.**
- **11:00 PM – Lessons & Carols: A beautiful, traditional service of scripture and song.**



All Are Welcome!



DECEMBER 14, 2025

Your FCCWP Church Council presents the Annual All Church Christmas Party

It is also Advent Workshop, and all ages are welcome to Christmas craft for the season.

Join us after church in Fellowship Hall:

***Christmas Carol Sing-along**

***Delicious lunch by Chef Drew**

***Christmas craft tables around the room with led instruction**

Luncheon

Roasted chicken with carrots, onions & potatoes

Green beans, Salad, gravy, bread & butter & dessert table

Kids there will be chicken nuggets, mac and cheese!

This luncheon is FREE! Yummy & Fun Christmas Cheer at no charge!

Donations welcome at registration and during the event.

*****Although there is no charge, please register so we can plan for the lunch*****

During the luncheon there is Advent Workshop. This cherished event happens every other year, and this is the year! You will find tables throughout fellowship hall with members ready to teach you a very simple Christmas craft that you can take home. This is fun for all ages, especially grown-ups. Make something for yourself or a gift for a loved one.

There is no charge for Advent Workshop.

[CLICK/SCAN TO MAKE RESERVATIONS](#)





Christmas Flowers 2025



The Flower Guild will be decorating the church with flowers of the season for the month of December. For the holidays a special flower fund has been set up. You may donate (any amount) to the fund in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member or friend.

Christmas flower dedications received in the church office by Wednesday, December 17th, will be listed in the Sunday, December 23rd bulletin.

Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church. memo line should read "Christmas Flower Dedication."

You may place your check in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Thank you.

Flower dedication given by:

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Phone: _____ email: _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

You may also email your dedication to mtaylor@fccwp.org
Please place Christmas Flower Dedication in the subject line
Your donation may be made online – fccwp.org – donate page

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

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 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
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 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.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re - ioice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
 Love stir with-in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
 (Refrain)
- 7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
 fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
 (Refrain)

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

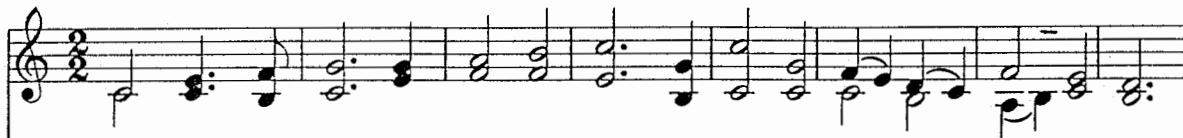
Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

117

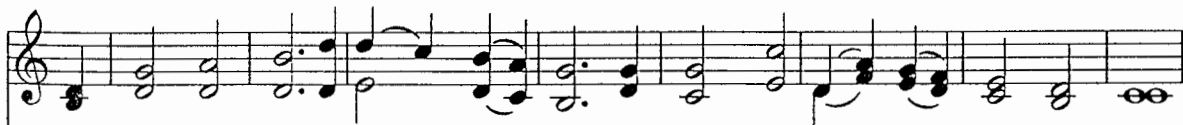
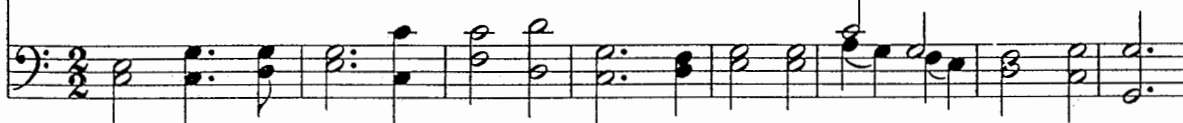
Georg Weissel, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.

Ps. 24:7-10



- 1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
- 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
- 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you: here, Christ, a - bide!
- 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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CHURCH GUEST WIFI

PASSWORD:

LetMeInPlease!



You can access our weekly bulletin through our website:

fccwp.org

Look for the tab labeled "Bulletin"

Help us reduce our carbon footprint and use your smart technology!

❧LOOKING AHEAD❧

TODAY! Sunday November 30

**Last day to sign Up for the Outreach \$20 Kindness Challenge
See Sally McArthur for information**

Sunday December 14

**All Church Party and Advent Workshop
Fellowship Hall After Worship**

And

**Angel Tree Gift Wrapping
1:00PM in the Sanctuary**

Wednesday December 24

**Christmas Eve Services:
5:00 PM – Family Service
11:00 PM – Lessons & Carols**

First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ of Winter Park
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