

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

DECEMBER 1, 2023

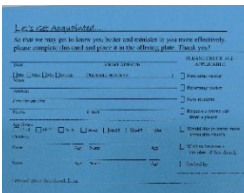
WELCOME

*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**

Rev. Shawn Garvey

INTRIOT

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

Gustav Holst

Please refrain from applauding

Chancel Choir

* **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Garvey

People: "We Pray Earnestly to Experience Your Presence"

* **OPENING HYMN**

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

No. 117

* **OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Garvey

* **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

All children please come forward and gather for young church.

YOUNG CHURCH

Kerry Weisner

All children/youth will remain in church today for Communion Sunday.

Childcare is available for infants through 3 yrs. old in the Parlor located at the back of Fellowship Hall.

All children must be picked up by a 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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

arr. Jamey Ray

Please refrain from applauding

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE

“Standing Strong”

Rev. Shawn Garvey

Jesus paints a powerful picture of changes that are ahead; changes that he says everyone on earth will go through. He then urges his listeners to be alert, so that they can escape all that is to come. Since no one can actually escape the changes, perhaps a better word here is “survive” or “withstand.” It is a call from Jesus to stand strong through difficult, even scary, changes and not allow them to overwhelm us so when they are over, we can stand before the Son of Man. How can we draw some hope from this seemingly difficult message from Luke’s gospel?

Responding to God’s Word

CALL TO PRAYER/JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Shawn Garvey

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

A Service for the Spiritual Feast

WORDS OF INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

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 who taught us to pray:

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Garvey

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

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 122

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Garvey



Christmas Flowers 2024



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 18th, will be listed in the Sunday, December 22nd 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:

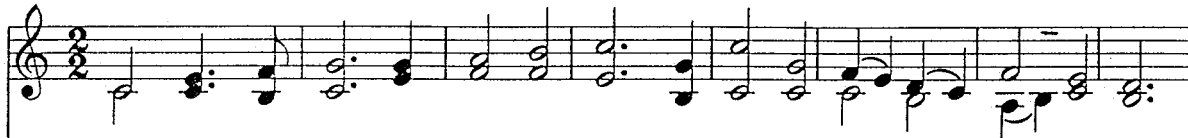
You may also email your dedication to mtaylor@fccwp.org
Please place Christmas Flower Dedication in the subject line
Your donation may be made online – fccwp.org – donate page

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

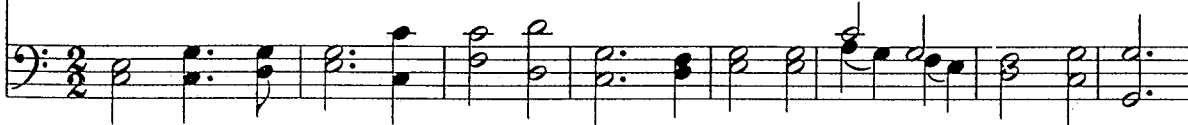
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Georg Weissel, 1641
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.

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 - bid!
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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Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.



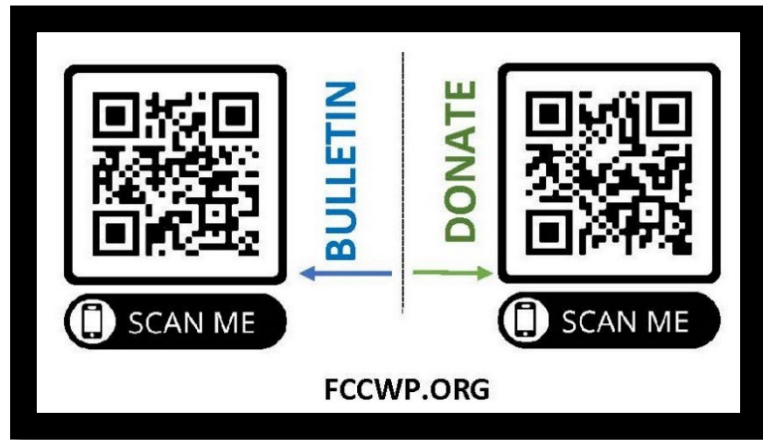
Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)
from *Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715*
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

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🌀

Thursday December 5th – Friday December 6th

Pre-paid Car Park Fundraiser

Reserve your spot for Winter Park Happenings!

Sunday December 8th - Friday December 13th

Walk Through Bethlehem Set-Up

Friday December 13th at 7:00PM

Walk Through Bethlehem Event

Sunday December 15th

All Church Celebration

AND

New Member Sunday

Sunday January 19th after Worship

Town Hall (Budget Review) Meeting

First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ of Winter Park
225 South Interlachen Avenue • Winter Park, Florida 32789-4411
Phone: 407-647-2416 • fccwp@fccwp.org • fccwp.org

Shawn Garvey, Senior Minister
Megan Taylor, Office Administrator
Jacki Churchill, Finance Administrator

Kerry Weisner, Faith Formation Director
John V. Sinclair, Music Director
Chris Olivent, Organist