

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, Open to all Seekers



An Open and Affirming Congregation of
the United Church of Christ



November 29, 2020

10:00AM

Advent 1B

We Gather as Church

*We gather this week via Zoom videoconference.
Though we are apart in body, we are close in spirit.*

To join from a computer, tablet, or smartphone, click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/2037874195?pwd=YUdBR0FzSHNxUy9Ta3ZWk1Rvc1hEQT09>

To join from a telephone, dial 646-876-9923 and follow the prompts.

Meeting ID: 203 787 4195 Password: 06511

PRELUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
Theme and Variations 1-4

Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Peace be with you... **And also with you...**

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

SUNG RESPONSE

We Listen for God's Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

From the Prophets

Isaiah 64:1-9

From the Gospels

Mark 13:24-31

REFLECTION

Rev. Jocelyn B. Gardner Spencer

ANTHEM

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Cologne, 1599

Evanna Chiew, *soloist*

We Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you... ***And also with you...*** Let us pray...

- For those celebrating birthdays this week including Curt Law, Douglas Martin + Maya Harris.
- For the integrity of our nation in this uncertain post-election season.
- For the families of the more than 260,000 Americans, and more than 1.4 million children of God worldwide, who have died of Covid-19.
- For all who are ill, and for those who care for them, that they might find healing and wholeness.
- For health care workers and for all who are on the front lines, caring for others and keeping us all safe and supplied.
- For our educators and our students and all connected to our schools, as they find new ways to support learning and growth.

- For all who struggle mentally, emotionally, physically, or spiritually during this difficult season.
- For our local congregation and for our wider church, as we seek to be the Body of Christ for such a time as this.
- For the leaders of our nation and every nation, and for those who aspire to lead, that they might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father/Mother/God, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you... *And also with you...*

Call to Action

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OUR RESOURCES AND OURSELVES

In anxious times like these, the work and word of the church is all the more important. Please help United continue to offer life-giving ministry, including spiritual and tangible responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, by giving online through our secure website at <http://unitednewhaven.org/donate>.

OFFERTORY

The Road Home
Joe Lerangis, *soloist*

Stephen Paulus
(1949-2014)

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OLD HUNDREDTH

OFFERTORY PRAYER

One: Blessed and blessing God, we bring you gifts from our hearts and lives. May our gifts be used to build up your Realm, on earth as it is in heaven.

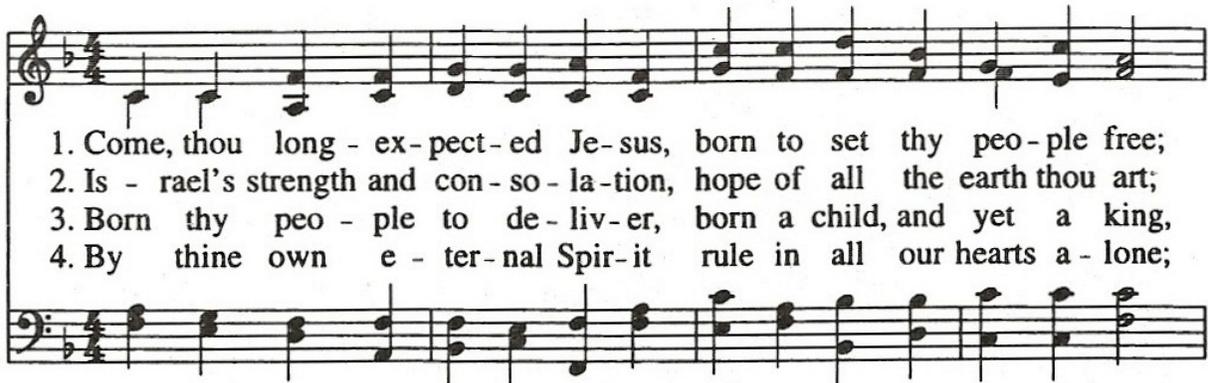
All: And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace, and justice in the house of your creation. Amen.

We Are Sent Out

HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
Variation 7

Hugo Distler

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!
Following the service, please stay for coffee hour (BYO coffee!).

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor	Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
Advent Candle Lighting	Gardner Spencer Family
UCG Soloists	Evanna Chiew Joe Lerangis
Digital Deacon	Kathryn Thomas
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

- Nov 29th:** 10:00AM Sunday Worship at United Church - Online
11:15AM Coffee Hour - Online
5:00PM Shalom UCC Worship – Online
- Dec 2nd:** 12Noon Prayer Meeting – Online
- Dec 3rd:** 1:00PM Crafts Group - Online
(contact Ruth Anne Olson rutha1031@gmail.com for the schedule)
- Dec 4th:** 4:00PM Bible Study - Online
6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen - Take Out Only
- Dec 5th:** 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen - Take Out Only

CHURCH NOTES

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In Person Meetings at the Church Have Been Suspended

United will be suspending in person meetings and gatherings until further notice. We will be worshipping and gathering online, so that we can keep in touch, keep each other safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Pastor and the staff are reachable by email and phone message. Please reach out to us with any concerns. We will reach out to you with information on upcoming online worship services and events.

Unfortunately, we've had to cancel the Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings held at the church. To find an online meeting, go to: www.onlinegroupaa.org. Please continue to maintain social distance, use face covering, and cleanse your hands. We will continue to lift each other in prayer.

At United Church on the Green, we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, following in the footsteps of Jesus. We are also a progressive Protestant Christian church, a member of the nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

We have a long history.

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

We are working with God to build a better future.

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Jocelyn B. Gardner Spencer, *senior minister*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Jack Russell, *director of operations*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

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