

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
Virtual Worship
November 29, 2020 – First Sunday of Advent**



PRELUDE

Signs of Winter

Lawrence Underwood

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

2nd Year Confirmation Students

One: O Holy One, we light this first candle, a candle of hope.

In the midst of the grief of the last year, let it burn through these weeks as a beacon to become the light of Hope. Let it guide us to your presence in our midst, reminding us to not be afraid.

All: God be with us in this Light of Hope.

ADVENT SONG

Angels Among Us

GATHERING SONG

O Come O Come Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

OPENING PRAYER

One: God of grace, we give thanks to you with one voice for the hope, peace, joy and love this season brings. Especially this year, we find ourselves distracted by all the stresses that surround us. Calm our fears and quiet our hearts. Be present with us as we turn away from distraction and turn toward the fullness of your love.

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

Edelweiss

Lawrence Underwood

through scripture

Jeremiah 33:10-16

Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, "It is a waste without human beings or animals," in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord: "Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is waste, without human beings or animals, and in all its towns there shall again be pasture for shepherds resting their flocks. In the towns of the hill country, of the Shephelah, and of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places around Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

through a sermon

Message of Hope

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for
Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

PARTING SONG

*Come, O Long-Expected Jesus
Come, thou long expected Jesus.
Born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us.
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation.
Hope of all the earth thou art.
Dear desire of every nation.
Joy of every longing heart.
Joy of every heart.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Let All Things Now Living

Lawrence Underwood



The 2020 Annual Congregation meeting will be held on
Sunday December 13th, 2020 at 11:00 AM. The meeting will be held via ZOOM.

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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220 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No. 1076

TOY EXPRESS December 6th Deadline For Playing Santa



Shopping may not be as much fun this year as it usually is, but the need for remembering kids in need is even greater than usual. First Church and the Outreach House have partnered with LOVE Christian Clearinghouse to provide gifts for children of families whose financial situation doesn't have room for anything other than food and housing. We are blessed in so many ways, and being able to share our blessings is another way of making our outreach programs so rewarding...and essential.

Toys will be gathered in the box in the narthex through next Sunday, so please call the church office at 630-629-2630, ext. 210, to arrange for dropping off gifts that are suitable for children 12 or younger, ensuring that they're new and unwrapped. LOVE will deliver our ingathering to Toy Express where the elves there will wrap them and distribute them to children who will have a happier Christmas than they'd have without our contributions. Please consider taking children on the shopping trip to (1) get ideas on the best choices and (2) help the children to know the joy of sharing.

THANK YOU!

The Auction Team is sending a huge thank you to the congregation and our extended community for responding to the 30th Annual Lilac Time Auction virtual format. Together, we flew past our goal—showing our steadfast commitment to serving the Lombard-Villa Park community. We are currently tabulating the final results and look forward to sharing this information with you in next week's News and Notes.

There is much to be grateful for this holiday season...Happy Thanksgiving!

AND ANOTHER THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to all those who donated toward the Advent Giving Bag project! The generous donations of items and funds allowed us to make 50 bags filled with snacks, necessary personal items, masks, hand sanitizer and (best of all), a scarf, gloves, a hat, and a pair of socks for each bag!

An Advent Giving Bag can be kept in your car to give out to someone in need. Bags may be picked up at church from 1 to 2 PM this Sunday afternoon, November 29th, or contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to arrange a different pick-up time.

FAMILY WATCH PARTY

It's a family affair. Gather on Friday, December 11th, at 7 PM to be a part of the All-Church Christmas Classic Watch Party which offers an evening of popular old Christmas cartoons via the Zoom screen. It's casual, so PJ's are a welcome attire choice. Add the touch of hot chocolate and popcorn to make the time tasty as well as relaxing. Please contact Val Sutton at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org if there are questions. She will be sending the Zoom connection so that everyone may join.

ADVENT STUDY

The spiritual leaders of First Church and the Methodist Church will join on Wednesday nights at 7 PM via Zoom for a study of what it means to celebrate Christmas in these unusual times. Please check emails for the Zoom connection to be a part of this group.

FOR THE READERS ON THE CHRISTMAS LIST

Looking for a great gift for someone who likes to read? Copies of “Beyond Words” Book Discussion Group books are available in the church office for \$5 each. Please contact Val Sutton for the titles of this assortment that was enjoyed by the members of “Beyond Words”.

POP THE CORKS

Corks-aplenty is what the Women’s Retreat Committee is looking for as the basis of several crafts that will be offered at the Women’s Retreat in February. Any size cork. Any color cork. Knowing someone who works in a restaurant or bar would be a good introduction for a supply that would help make this project work really well. Please contact Val Sutton at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org if there are questions or there is a need for help in dropping off the collection.

SCRIP

If going into a store is causing some unease for purchasing Christmas gifts, SCRIP is an easy answer, and it’s also a boost for the Outreach House which receives the percentage returned to us from the purchase of gift cards. They mail easily. They don’t require a lot of gift wrapping. They give the recipient a chance to purchase what they want or need. No worries about size or color. Please order by the second Tuesday of December and know that the cards will be ready by that weekend. And or outreach programs will benefit. Contact Bea in the church office with any questions about ordering.

“THE RADICAL KING”

Our next” Beyond Words” Book Discussion will look at The Radical King, a compilation of speeches by The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with introduction by Dr. Cornel West. Copies are available in the office for \$12 each.

We will gather via Zoom on Wednesday, January 20th, to discuss this book starting at 6:45 PM Please contact Val Sutton at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to arrange a pick-up of the book and to receive Zoom links.

WELCOME

The 245 congregations with 69,000 members of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ welcomed the Rev. Molly Flewelling Carlson at her installation as Conference Minister on November 21st.. Please keep her and the Conference staff in your prayers.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Missing meeting with friends over coffee on Sunday mornings? While the time doesn’t include the usual greetings and hugs, it is still possible to meet with friends via Zoom at 11:15 AM each Sunday. Time to see friendly smiles, to chat, to notice who hasn’t had a haircut in awhile, to ask questions without having to type them on a computer. Sorry that we can’t supply the coffee, but we can supply friendship. Please join a bunch of First Church Family this Sunday.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

While it isn’t the same as “being at church”, the live streaming of the worship service gives us the chance to enjoy Pastor Jill’s message, hear the music, and see the sanctuary and “remember when”. Watch it at 10:15 AM or at any time for days after, just by going to www.fcol.org and clicking on the worship service.

IN TOUCH WITH OUTREACH

The Food Pantry made Thanksgiving dinner better for 180 families last weekend when that many complete dinners were delivered to those who wouldn't have had dinner without this contribution. Turkey and all the works that make a Thanksgiving dinner complete.