

Let's Worship God Together!

December 8, 2024

Prelude

Alexis Boylan and Aly Soriano

Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth Hagan

We are so glad that you've chosen to worship with us today. If you are a visitor, we'd love for you to share with us a visitor card as found in your pew and place it in the offering plate. We want you to know how happy we are that you are here! Nursery/ Sunday School is available downstairs for babies – 5th grade.

*Hymn of Praise

"People, Look East"

No. 142 v. 1-3

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Kristina and Elizabeth Gentry

One: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. AMEN

The candle of hope and peace is lit

Response Song

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

No. 134

Recognizing a Deacon Emeritus

Tom Phillippo

Mary Garrison

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God of all nations, your Spirit transcends boundaries of geography and time. If we travel to a village in Malawi parched by drought, you are there. If we travel to Isreal and Palestine caught in the clash of religions and cultures, you are there. If we make our home in Honduras or Nicaragua where mothers fear for their children to walk safely to school, you are there. If we make our home anywhere, you are there.

God, you are where we cannot be at this hour except through our prayers . . . with the Ukrainian mother crying in the night for her children, with the Bedouin shepherd rising with the sun for a long day of work ahead, and with the homebound woman in our neighborhood who is lonelier than she can say. God you are there. You are the giver of peace in places where there is no peace.

But often we aren't. Our world is small. We only listen to voices who believe the same as we do. We connect with so few of the heartaches of our human family. We look away because it's just too hard. So, today, help us put on new glasses and see again. Free us to be surprised, confused, amazed by the who we are in community with, as we confess you as Lord and as we pray the prayer you taught, Jesus, to pray saying:

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

Children's Moment

Rev. Elizabeth Hagan

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-6, 8-9

Hymnal No. 126

Giving our Gifts

As the deacons pass your pew feel free to share your offering this morning or you may give online at fccathens.org. We are thankful for your generosity.

Offertory

Alexis Boylan and Aly Soriano

*The Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

No. 46

*Offertory Prayer

Lauren Smith

As we offer our gifts in this moment to you, Holy God, we pray that they might be used to bring peace, to bring healing, to bring new life to all your people. Make us good stewards of all of the blessings in our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Special Music

"Christians, All Your Lord Is Coming"

Choir

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:8-12

NT, page 50

Sermon *“Coming Home to Peace”* *Rev. Elizabeth Hagan*

Music for Meditation *“The First Noel”* Choir

Gathering at the Communion Table

*(We celebrate an open communion table and welcome all to participate, adults and children alike from all denominational backgrounds. If you sit in the balcony, elements are available at the back on the table.)
Gluten free communion is also available.*

Invitation to Communion *Rev. Elizabeth Hagan*

Song of Preparation Trio

Prayer for Communion Nancy Leffel

Sharing Communion Together

*Commitment Hymn *“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”* *No. 154 v. 1-3, 6*

Life of the Church and Benediction *Rev. Elizabeth Hagan*

*Closing Song *“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”* *No. 134*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called, Emmanuel.

Postlude Aly Soriano

Worship Servants Today:

Counters: Mary Ann Maxwell and Carlas Allgood

Offering: Molly Dorkey and Denise Anderson

Musicians: Aly Soriano and Alexis Boylan

A Gathering for Worship
December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Athens, GA
Rev. Elizabeth Hagan, Minister
www.fccathens.org

The Life of the Church

- Let's go caroling! Today, we'll meet at the church at 3:30 pm to get directions on our stops around the community and then we'll gather for dinner at Mary Garrison's house when we are done.
- Children's Christmas Party/ Parent's Night out is Sunday, December 15th from 5-7 pm. Let Elena know you are coming. Cost is \$5 per child.
- Remember to bring items for the warmth tree all month! Hats, gloves, socks for kids or adults!
- Also, we are collecting items to send to our military friends through Casey Mull—let Marla know if you have greeting cards or small toiletry items to offer our care package.

Prayer Requests

Marguerite Burch

Betty Simmons

Fay Harrison

Lavonda Cheek

The McCrary Family in Florida

Carlas Allgood

Mike Copas

Rachel Hagan (Kevin Hagan's mother)

Debbie Hembree (Angie Townsend's sister-in-law)

Ann Strawser (eye problems)

Family of Jimmy Wayne (cousin of Yvonne Fowler)

Gloria O'Riley

Pat Jameson

Becky Davis, Jo Faddis (friends of Betty Robertson)

Mary and Jim Myrick

Jan Hardeman (Betty Robertson's cousin)

Art Guilmet (friend of Betty Robertson)

Ronnie Edgar

Tamiah Clark (18 yr old granddaughter of Betty Robertson's caregiver)

Lauren McClusky (Marguerite Burch's granddaughter)

Bob Rathbun

Stacy, Kyle & Benjamin Kimmel

Mary Chapman

Ann Rutherford

Hazel Pittard

Betty Robertson

Janet Edwards (Betty Robertson's caregiver)

Russell Sloan (Angie Townsend's son)

Carol Lowe (Extended family member of Mike and Marilyn Hiott)

Angela Antans

Karen Dolezol (friend of Angela Antans, bone cancer in jaw)

Joe Cobb Burch (nephew of Marguerite Burch)

Bill Jordan (son-in-law of Marguerite Burch)