

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Traditional Worship Service

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

Rev. Sam Wright, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

INTROIT

Rene Clausen

All that hath life and breath, praise ye, the Lord. Shout to the Lord Alleluia! Praise Him! Alleluia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

Henry Bausback, Chair SPRC

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vs 1,2,3,4

Hymn 211¹

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Alyssa Machado, Director of Children's Ministries

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen.

John Rutter

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 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Thank you for your generosity to the ministries of First Church. You may give online at www.firstsrq.com; click GIVE, or send your check to First Church, 104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236. We are grateful for your faithful support. You are making a difference in the lives of those in need.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Fur Elise

Ludwig Van Beethoven

JJ Miguel, piano

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25²

SPECIAL MUSIC

Coventry Carol

Mark Hayes

Catherine Stuart, mezzo-soprano

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

THE MESSAGE

How the Grinch Stole Christmas: It's a Wonderful Life

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymn 196³

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

¹***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***, Hymn 211

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

²Matthew 1:18-25 (CEB)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary, his mother, was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to quietly call off their engagement. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.
(Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

³***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***, Hymn 196

1. 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.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

STAFF APPRECIATION

As many of you know and experience, the First Church Staff serves with caring professionalism in their myriad of weekday and Sunday responsibilities. The Staff-Parish Committee invites you to express your appreciation of them with a Christmas love offering. Please note “staff gift” on your check or online. Thank you for this gift and your other expressions of kindness to the staff throughout the year. - Staff-Parish Relations Committee

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas is beautiful at First Church. A poinsettia is a special way to honor or remember a loved one (\$10 donation). **The deadline to purchase a poinsettia is Monday, December 6.** Contact the Church Office to order (941-955-0935).

THE SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE

~provides help and hope all year long to local persons in financial crisis~

First Church will have a Red Kettle in the narthex on Sundays, December 5 and 12. Again and always, thank you for your loving support for our community and beyond!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

~ Bells, Lullabies and Stars~

Sunday, December 19, 7 p.m.

Exquisite Christmas Tradition in Candlelight
for

First Church Family and Our Community

Invite guests to enjoy with you!

NOVEMBER IS ANGEL TREE MONTH

~ sponsored by The Salvation Army ~

Once again First Church hopes to provide Christmas delight to as many children as we can, up to 75 in the past. (The families are interviewed to determine their eligibility for this program.) As in 2020, we want to keep you safe by not asking you to shop (hoping that will change for 2022).

~We invite you to make a suggested donation of \$100

(or certainly any amount your heart and budget will allow).

~ Make your check payable to FUMC with “Angel” in the memo line.

~ For an online donation, go to firstsrq.com and click “Give”.

Donation deadline - Tuesday, November 30.

Thank YOU for loving children!

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We welcome Mindy Kolbe to our staff as our new administrative assistant. We are excited about her joining our team. She will be in the office Tuesday through Friday. Come by and introduce yourself.
