

# FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA

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

## Traditional Worship Service

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

Rene Clausen

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

Chancel Choir

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries

### \*OPENING HYMN

*O Come. O Come Emmanuel*

Hymnal 230, v4<sup>1</sup>

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Alyssa Machado, Director of Children's Ministries

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

### 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](http://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

*Coventry Carol*

Mark Hayes

Catherine Stuart,

Mezzo soprano

### SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 92<sup>2</sup>

### THE MESSAGE

*A Charlie Brown Christmas: Depressed at Christmas*

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Hymnal 196<sup>3</sup>

## BENEDICTION

### MUSICAL BENEDICTION

### *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*

Hymnal 230, v4

### PASSING THE PEACE

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#### <sup>1</sup> **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**, Hymnal 211. v1-4

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.

#### <sup>2</sup>**Matthew 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 call off their engagement quietly. 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.

#### <sup>3</sup>**Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus**, Hymnal 196

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.

#### <sup>4</sup>**O Little Town of Bethlehem**, Hymnal 230, v4

4. 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!

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## ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Thank you! If yours are not here yet, bring them to the church tomorrow (November 28) if you can. The Salvation Army truck will be here Tuesday morning to load all the gifts.

## HELPERS NEEDED – CHRISTMAS DECORATING

**Tuesday, November 29th - 9 a.m.**

You choose what you would enjoy doing as you work with the team to decorate campus. While making the church beautiful, you will also make new church friends. Sandy Grimes is our experienced leader for “Hanging of the Greens.” Contact her **(941-962-7052; loonpoint@msn.com)**.

## POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF LOVED ONE(S)

Deadline to purchase is Sunday, December 4. Forms at the entrance tables. Remember you can take yours after the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

## SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE

First Church will have an online Virtual Red Kettle as well as a kettle in the narthex Sundays, December 4 and 11. Look for the virtual Red Kettle link in the November 29 e-news. All the money helps our community needs.

## ADVENT BEGINS TODAY, NOVEMBER 27

### **Advent Sermon Series: A Charlie Brown Christmas**

November 27	<i>Depressed at Christmas</i>
December 4	<i>What Christmas Is Not About</i>
December 11	<i>Stressed Out Over Christmas</i>
December 18	<i>Failing at Christmas</i>
December 24	<i>Coming Together at Christmas</i> (5 and 7:30 p.m. ~ Sanctuary)
<b>December 25</b>	<i>The Real Meaning of Christmas</i> <b>(ONE Service at 10 a.m.)</b>

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Annual Christmas Concert in Sanctuary – December 18 ~ 7 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Services (traditional) in Sanctuary – December 24 ~ 5 and 7:30 p.m.**

**Christmas Day – December 25 ~ ONE SERVICE ~ 10 a.m.**

**New Year’s Day – January 1 ~ ONE SERVICE ~ 10 a.m.**

*Invite others to worship with you in the beauty of Christmas at First Church.*

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**Tuesday, December 6, 10-11:30 a.m. - 104 and ZOOM**

**Tuesday, January 10, 10-11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall**

All are invited to learn about Tampa’s Cornerstone Ministries,  
one of the two in Florida Conference.

Contact: Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com)

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Charles Bouton - October 21, 2022**