

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.



We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:

or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.



Thank you.

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand. **Bold** print indicates responses by all
Hymns are printed at the end of the bulletin

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship *(after Mark 13: 24-37)*

We come into God's presence in hopeful anticipation,
We await the coming of the Son of God.

The sun may be dimmed, the moon may lose its light,

The stars may fall from the sky...

Still, the Divine Spirit is with us.

God sends angels from the four winds,

From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

We hear Jesus' words, "Keep awake! Be alert!"

*Opening Prayer

God of the four winds, blow your Spirit through this space.

From north and south, east and west,

we gather to worship your holy name;

We belong to you; we are clay in your hands.

**Open our ears to the sound of your voice
echoing through the spheres.**

**Open our eyes to the brilliance of your presence
shining in each new day.**

**Open our hearts to the new reign of Jesus Christ
come now to earth. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Phil and Betsy Selby

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Advent is a season of lighting candles; lighting candles for the hope, peace, joy, and love for which we wait.

Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

We wait –

We wait

not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here.

We wait

because to wait

is to expect something more.

To wait is to expect that the story

might enter our hearts

and our world

in new ways,

to bring the change for which we long.

As we light the candle of hope,

we remember the stories

of God with us,

when life has been hard,

and not what we expected.

We can trust that God

is with us, as we wait

for hope to be born, anew, in us.

***Opening Hymn** *Keep Awake, Be Always Ready*

112

See last page of bulletin

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** *(Isaiah 64: 1-9)*

God is peace:

the ever-present, ever-loving, ever-compassionate power
that governs the world.

Like generations before us,

we fail in our efforts to live in the peace and harmony God desires.

As in Isaiah's time we become unclean

and our righteous deeds become as filthy cloths.

We alone cannot wipe clean the slate of our transgressions.

We fade like leaves and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Yet, You O God, are Father and Mother;

like the potter you fashioned us from clay in your holy image.

**In these silent moments hear the sighing of our spirits
as we lay open our hearts to you.**

Mold us anew, O God, recreate a right image within us. *Silent prayer*

***Assurance of Pardon**

At God's command the heavens open,
the mountains quake and love descends as an ever-flowing stream.
A light shines in the night and the night cannot endure.
Trust that the Power that created you in love
now forgives and renews you in the same divine spirit.
Go forth to proclaim the awesome deeds of our loving God! **Amen.**

Thought For the Day

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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The Scriptures

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

In good times and bad times, God is faithful to us.

We bring forth our offerings – our tithes, our treasures, our least coins –
to demonstrate our faithfulness to God.

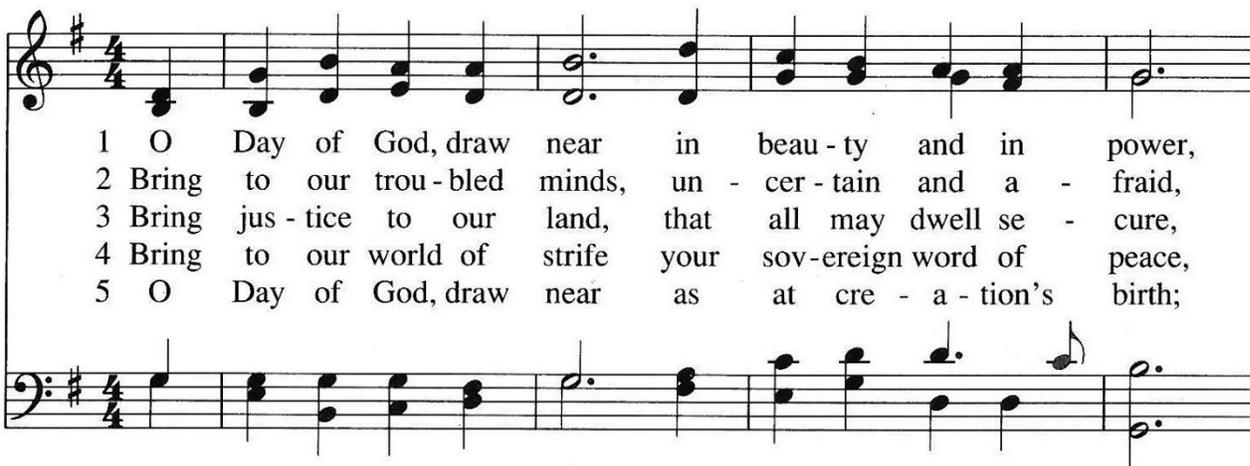
Today we bring these offerings in the name of the Ruler of Peace,
God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Come, give your peace to God.

Anthem *O Rest in the Lord*

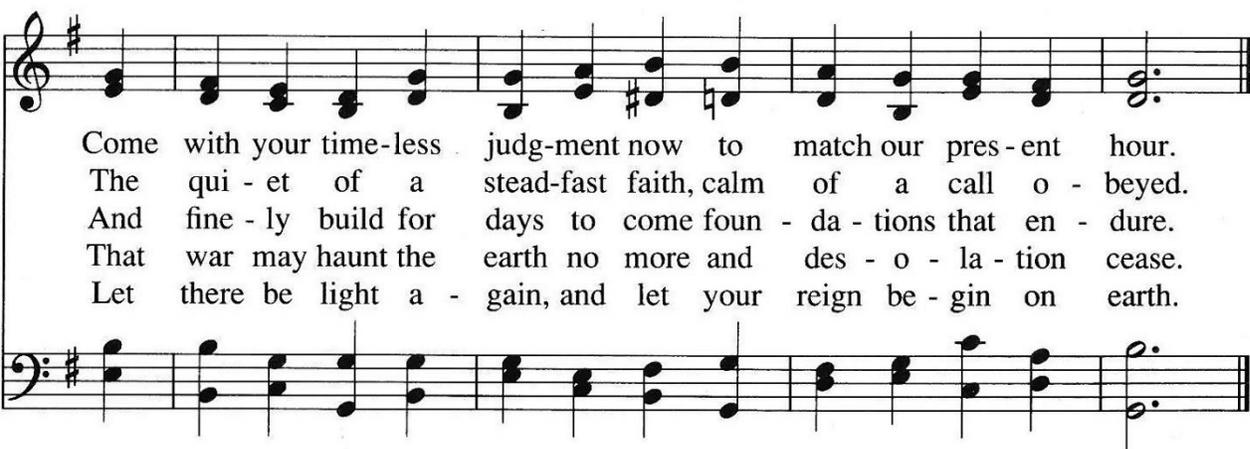
*- F. Mendelssohn
ERUCC Singers*

***Closing Hymn** *O Day of God Draw Near*

611



1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;



Come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

***Benediction**

Go from this place alert and awake in the spirit of God's peace.

We go as faithful servants to spread God's love to the ends of the earth.

Amen!

***Postlude**



Worship Notes: **Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent**, was written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes, an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ and has served three UCC churches in Michigan. The Advent Candlelighting liturgy is from Seasons of the Spirit.



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bziah0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of Jack Doll, Jean Weddle (sister of Jack Doll), and Robert Blumenauer (brother of Jane Doll) by the Doll family.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Martha Kline.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Bob Marendt, Cathie Duncan, Starr Schaeberle, Tom Ford, Anne Hoffmann, Lauren Jenkins (niece of Donna Logee), Ro Higinbotham, The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimd (sister of Dennie Schmid), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith's aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Larry Maples, Jane Doll, Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Joe Jahoda (Kim Jahoda's dad), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn (brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser).

We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.

Worship Next Week: December 6 [Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.](#)

Second Sunday in Advent

Look for update online.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

A response card for Christmas Eve services will be included in the worship packets being delivered at the end of November. In our re-opening guidelines, we can host 100 people in the Sanctuary and another 50 in the Community Room. You will be invited to complete the card and let us know whether you are interested in worshipping, in person, on Christmas Eve.

If we can continue to meet in-person safely, our plan is to have the 5:30 Family Service and 7:30 service in-person and live streamed from the Sanctuary. The 10:30. service will be in-person and held in Trinity Chapel.

SUNDAY SCHOOL **Join us for Zoom Sunday School for Children/Youth at 9:30 a.m.**

Kindergarten thru 4th grade Sunday School Teachers: Dawn Lagrotteria and Kim Sexton
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89653038025?pwd=djRPU05TNDFYczFMVUdOVzdmWnpuUT09>
Meeting ID: 896 5303 8025 Passcode: 667229

5th - 7th Grade Sunday School Teachers: Kathryn King, Arthur Slade and Jim Weitz
<https://zoom.us/j/92955152861?pwd=VStwT3ZISDILOVhhTWJRdTB0aHRyUT09>
Meeting ID: 929 5515 2861 Passcode: hpQSF1

High School Teachers: Pastor Daniel, Stephanie Sites and Glenn Wallace
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314617999?pwd=Rkd1N2JyZDFHdmtPYIBMTitkUzhUdz09>
Meeting ID: 843 1461 7999 Passcode: 979546

Join Tuesday Bible Study via Zoom OR IN PERSON! 11 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/608416206?pwd=NzFtVUsxUmQ5eGpxMmk4WDB6Z0lUUT09>

Meeting ID: 608 416 206

Passcode: 588188

Explore the Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have mean to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

In Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

Each session will begin with a 11-13-minute video introducing the lesson followed by discussion. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Daniel know so you can receive a copy of the book.

COVID Support-Encouragement Group

The class is called “Surviving and Thriving During the Covid Virus.” The virus pandemic has been difficult for everyone. This group will provide a safe place to talk about what it’s like to go through the pandemic. The group will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 2-3 pm. It is a drop-in group, no preparation needed. Joan and Allen Maples will be hosting the group outside (weather permitting) or in the Downtown Community Room. Please bring your mask and a chair; and we will be social distancing. As a backup, we will be using Zoom, For additional information please contact Allen Maples at allen.maples@gmail.com or call 301-663-5351.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY from 7-8 pm

The Gospel of Mark

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89672369983?pwd=VkljN0gvbHJ6ZVZJaVRKY0s0WmlpZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7236 9983

Password: 427069

A Listen Up! Bible Study from UCC Still Speaking writer, Talitha Arnold.

Mark’s Gospel, the shortest of the four Gospels, gets right to the point and tells us what mattered most to the earliest of Christians.

Part One (Chapters 1-8)

December 3 Lesson 4 Mark 5: 1-43

December 10 Lesson 5 Mark 6 and 7

Genesis Study Group Wednesday Evening at 7 PM via Zoom

Wednesday Bible Study Group has resumed viewing and discussing *The Book of Genesis* as presented by Professor Gary A. Rendsburg of Rutgers University. This study is one published by The Great Courses. We are viewing the lectures by Professor Rendsburg beginning with the lecture “A Bride for Isaac” which moves us into the second generation of the matriarchs and patriarchs of the Hebrew people. Throughout November the focus will remain on the relationship between Isaac’s sons Esau and Jacob and the expanding family that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah. If you like messy family sagas, this is your kind of Bible Study.

Since this will be a Zoom class, if you have not been getting the link for the Wednesday evening class on *Cathedral on Fire*, please let Esther Ziegler know your email address to be added to the list. estherrziegler@gmail.com.

Coins for a Cause Is Back!

A new program sponsored by the Mission and Social Action Committee, **Coins for A Cause**, launched this year in March, weeks before the pandemic put the brakes on in-person worship. While many of us still worship remotely, our strong stewardship during this time shows how much we still care. The Committee decided to change this program to meet the current reality. We will support organizations that make a difference here in Frederick. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or added to your online giving.



During the last part of 2020, donations will go to the **Red Wiggler Farm**. The Red Wiggler Farm is a local organization that strives to create a community “where people with and without developmental disabilities come together to work, learn, and grow healthy food.” Check out their website at www.redwiggler.org! or [Red Wiggler on YouTube](#).

How to be Anti-Racist Engagement, Conversation & Opportunities

“Becoming an anti-racist is a life-long journey. It happens in community with other committed people who journey together and commit to decentering whiteness, leaning into practices to decolonize socialized patterns of thinking and behaviors. The process includes relearning history, correcting false narratives, and working towards radical shifts in policies and structures that harm black lives”. ~ Velda Love

Book Discussions

via Zoom Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893297577?pwd=OEVS OVJrc1VRVzJmMkYjdk2SIZ4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 868 9329 7577 Passcode: 494164

December 1 at 7 p.m.

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made
for Whiteness*

Austin Channing Brown

Movie Discussions

(Watch the movie at home and then engage in the conversation. Conversations will be held by Zoom call at 7 pm on the designated dates. If you do not have access to streaming services, call the church office to make arrangements to see the films.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061140430?pwd=OTFoRGJ0QnNvU2hZVXBbTh5VjlUQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 6114 0430 Password: 268380

November 29

“Mudbound”

Stay Connected and Get Informed!

There are many ways to receive information about what is happening at church each week. The weekly bulletin, the weekly informational email, and our monthly newsletter, The Trinity Chimes, Facebook, and Instagram. @eruccfred

Thursday Thoughts—A weekly emailed message that shares updates, highlights the upcoming service's scripture and focus, and includes announcements about Sunday School. To sign up to receive Thursday Thoughts, contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org and share your preferred email address.

Trinity Chimes—ERUCC's monthly newsletter. A more in-depth look on what's happening with the congregation. How we're reaching out, learning and volunteer opportunities, member and social program updates. Receive Trinity Chimes by email! Contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)



Now Available!

Excited to reveal the 275th Anniversary commemorative ornament, featuring Trinity Chapel's beautiful stained glass window.

This miniature, just 2"x3" in size, reproduces the historic window on glass, with a metal frame and hanger. Now available for sale at \$15 each, your purchase supports the *Preserving Our History* campaign. All funds raised through the sale of the miniature windows go directly into our historic building preservation fund.

Just 200 boxed miniatures were ordered, the shipment is here, and they are available for purchase today. Contact the office to submit your request.

A sincere thank you to Jeff Schaeberle whose photograph of the stained glass window was used to create this miniature. His talents shine brightly at ERUCC!



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director
Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • (ph) 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org

1 Keep a-wake, be al - ways rea - dy, God's time ap - proach-es
 2 Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose love will quench all

sure and stea - dy, God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
 na - ture's thirst - ing to be made whole for - ev - er more.

Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis - perse, God's pur - est
 On that day to end all weep - ing, death's swords trans - formed to

light re - veal - ing; cre - a - tion will its Sov-ereign name. Dry
 tools of reap - ing, the God of might will mer - cy pour. In -

branch - es burst forth green, God's ad - vent signs are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 car - nate, God ap - pears em - brac - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ's judg - ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gun.
 God's maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(YEAR B)

November 29, 2020

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Where Are You, God?

In the book, *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, published at the beginning of this year by The Pilgrim Press, ten women writers responded to the 150 Biblical psalms with words of their own. Not a retelling of the psalms or an alternate translation, instead the book is a reply to those ancient words, engaging them for today.

Editor Martha Spong reports that over the course of the twelve months of 2019, she “watched a book idea that had lived only in my hopes grow from a conversation in an airport in January to a manuscript being sent to the printer in December. I had the joy of inviting nine women to work with me and the delight of hearing a yes from each of them. We all felt excited, and daunted, to engage with the psalms personally, yet also for a future audience of readers. Some of us do this weekly in crafting liturgy; here we wrote not for the collective voices of a congregation, but out of our particular contexts and experiences. It is an offering both to God and readers in this season of extreme division, full of passion and persistence. My hope is that readers will recognize themselves in the words of our mouths and be inspired to articulate their own psalms for the struggle.”

Like the psalms themselves, the poems and prayers in *The Words of Her Mouth* are both deeply personal and widely universal and address a range of human experience and emotions. In response to Psalm 88, United Church of Christ Pastor Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell writes,

“Here are my tears,” you said. “Eat. And these are my tears, too. Drink.”

“Too salty!” we cried. “We can’t eat this sorrow! We can’t drink this suffering! We will die!”

You heard our protests and you lifted the plate and the cup anyway.

Most of us turned away. But some of us stayed to eat and drink with you, and we did not die as we had feared.

In truth, we lived. In truth, we live still.

Spong, Martha, ed. *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*.

Copyright © 2020 Martha Spong.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2020 United Church of Christ

BUL0113