

# First Church

SANDWICH, UCC

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*Caring people, sharing God's love.*

Rev. Tina Walker-Morin, Senior Minister  
Rev. Jennie Valentine, Minister of Faith Formation and Service  
Roy Gernhardt, Director of Music  
Kathy Gernhardt, Accompanist

## Advent Order of Service

December 5, 2021

10:00am

*“Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you”  
~Matthew 7:12*

### Video Announcements

### Welcome

### Musicians sing verse of “What Can’t Wait”

*Peace can’t wait; she beckons brightly, softening the hardened heart.  
Blessing all with brilliant beauty, fighting that which tears apart.  
Violence has lost its power; now’s the time for God’s shalom.  
Nevermore shall war devour; all the soldiers welcomed home.*

### Opening Prayer and Candle Lighting

**Rev. Tina:** I will wait for dinner to be ready.

**Rev. Jennie:** I will wait for snow to fall.

**Martine:** I will wait for the grandchildren to arrive.

**Rev. Tina:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive. But, what can’t wait?

**ALL: Peace can’t wait.**

**Rev. Tina:** This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

**Rev. Jennie:** I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

**Martine:** We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division. Because

**ALL: Peace can’t wait.**

**Rev. Tina:** So today we light the candle of Peace as a reminder and as a prayer of confession that not a day goes by that God does not invite us to be peacemakers and advocates, listeners and good Samaritans.

**Rev. Jennie:** Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend to a stranger

**Martine:** and a neighbor to those in need.

**ALL: Forgive us for walking a different path, and grant us the strength to prepare a new**

**way—Your way—here. Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

**Congregational Sung Response**  
**sing verse of “What Can’t Wait”**

*Peace can’t wait; she beckons brightly, softening the hardened heart.*

*Blessing all with brilliant beauty, fighting that which tears apart.*

*Violence has lost its power; now’s the time for God’s shalom.*

*Nevermore shall war devour; all the soldiers welcomed home.*

**Message for All Ages**  
*(children dismissed to Church School)*

**Rev. Jennie Valentine**

**Song** *O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines* Blue #711

**Scripture:** Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12 Martine Canning

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**Sermon**

**Rev. Tina Walker-Morin**

**Response**

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel #134*

**Offering**

**Invitation**

**Song**

*Isn't He*

**Dedication**

**Communion Song**

*O Morning Star #105*

Choir

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation and Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father/Mother/Creator,  
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**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

**We thank you, God,  
for breaking into our world  
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.**

**We thank you, God,  
for this meal of thanksgiving  
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

**Sending Forth Song**            *Let There Be Peace on Earth/ I've Got Peace Like a River #530*

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Tina Walker-Morin**

**Closing Music**

*Waiting for You*