

First Congregational Church of Winona

United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

December 12, 2021

Prelude

Sandy Todd

Invitation to Worship

Rev. Danielle Bartz

Chimes

Call to Worship

One: We come together in a rainbow of hope, peace, and joy.

Many: We come together with fear and trembling for the new world we are creating.

One: With open arms, with pride and joy, we welcome people from every nation and ethnic community into our church. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, straight, affirming, old, young, differently-abled, people with questions, and those who know the answers – all are welcome here.

Many: No one is excluded from Christ's table.

One: God loves us all.

Many: We are one in the Spirit! Alleluia! Amen.

Lighting the Candle of Joy

When confusion claims us

When we feel unable to do anything right

The Holy Invites us to be faithful that we may find Joy

Where in the world do we find Joy these days?

Sung Response (to the tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,

From Mary's womb a faithful paragon

Brought forth into this world by love's power

Your Spirit through her labors in that hour

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us

And all things shall be well.

Call for Offering & Anthem

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Spirit of openness and affirmation, we dedicate these gifts to the ministry of love and acceptance in the world. May we ever seek to use all of our resources to create a world and a church where all are welcome and honored, loved and fully known. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who welcomed everyone to his table. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-56

Translation by Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney

Sermon

"Song of Wonder"

Pastoral Prayer & 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, forever. Amen.

A Special Message of the National ONA Coalition

ONA Litany

See Insert

Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

#114, Red Hymnal

Announcements

Benediction

"Change Sings" a poem by Amanda Gorman

Chimes

Postlude