



Ignite
HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

December 20, 2020

Advent 4 Ignite Love

Online Worship at 10:00 am

Diverse in Thought | United in Faith | Called to Serve

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch - Jeannette Isabella arr. David Ritter
Ginny Jones - Violin Mary Ruth Yates - Piano

WELCOME

Helen Hempfling and Bruce Ervin

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

The Jackson Family

CHORAL INTROIT

O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by your advent here.
Love stir within the womb of night and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Latin Hymn (12th Century); tr. John Mason Neal, 1851
Music: French melody (15th Century)
Setting: Roland E. Martin (b. 1955)

INVOCATION

OPENING CAROL

People Look East

BESANÇON

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Evelyn Farjeon, 1928 Music: Traditional French Carol

PASTORAL PRAYER

PASSING OF THE PEACE

During this time, please use your cell phone to text "The peace of Christ be with you" to someone who needs to receive these words of encouragement.

Choral Response

One Candle is Lit

CRADLE SONG

As God's Waiting People we come to prepare
for a gift that will call us to love and to care.

We offer to each other Christ's Peace and Shalom,
and say to the stranger "Christ welcomes you home."

Words: Helen Hempfling Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

SCRIPTURE (sung)

Luke 1:46-55

Sung Scripture

Magnificat in D

Herbert Brewer (1865-1928)

⁴⁶My soul doth magnify the Lord,

⁴⁷And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

⁴⁸For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:

for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

⁴⁹For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

⁵¹He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵²He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and hath exalted humble and meek.

⁵³He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

⁵⁴He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;

⁵⁵as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed forever.

-Luke 1:46-55 - *The Book of Common Prayer*

Glory be to the Father, and to Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

- The Lesser Doxology

HOMILY

Ignite Love

Helen Hempfling

INVITATION TO GIVING

Christmas Special Offering

You are invited to offer your gift by mail, or in person (see back page).

The method of giving does not matter. It's the mission that makes a difference!

Response of Praise

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration for the Bread and Cup

Sharing of the Bread and Cup (*unison*)

*Please hold the communion elements in your hands during the communion music.
We will partake of them in unison following the music.*

Communion Anthem

Love Came Down

R.O. Morris (1886-1948)

Maria Izzo-Walker, soprano setting by Roland E. Martin (b.1955)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Love came down at Christmas, | Worship we the Godhead, |
| Love all lovely, Love divine; | Love incarnate, Love divine; |
| Love was born at Christmas, | Worship we our Jesus: |
| Star and angels gave the sign | But wherewith for sacred sign? |

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

-Christina Georgina Rossetti, *A Reading Diary* (1885)

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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/sins as we forgive our debtors/those who have sinned 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings (1856)

Descant: Paul Liljestränd

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BLESSING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World - Anna Laura Page

Mary Ruth Yates - Organ

This service was pre-recorded in various segments to allow the worship leaders to strictly follow guidelines regarding social distancing.

Announcements

Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour Today Following Worship at 11:30 am!

Simply copy and paste the following link into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82020684237?pwd=OTBSd2xKV0xUZzVLVWVoVXhZYWZOdz09>

Enjoy the Christmas Beauty of the Sanctuary

The church will be open from **6:00 – 9:00 pm on Sunday night, December 20 – Thursday night, December 24**. Please come and enjoy a few quiet moments in the Sanctuary. Music will be playing and the decorations are all up. You'll need to wear a mask, and if there are others in the building or the Sanctuary while you are there, please maintain at least 6 feet of distance. Enter through the canopy door and then make your way to the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Worship Online

A full Christmas Eve service, with all of the beauty and pageantry, will be pre-recorded in our Bedford Sanctuary and will be available to you online, starting at **6:00 pm on Christmas Eve**. We'll hear the Christmas story, sing our favorite carols, light candles and welcome the Christ Child. Please join us. Watch your inbox for the link. It will be live by 6:00 pm on December 24, and available at any time after that.

Welcome Christmas in the Parking Lot on Christmas Eve

At this time it seems highly unlikely that we will be able to worship inside on Christmas Eve. Even if we can, we won't be able to sing carols. But, please gather in the parking lot at **11 pm on Christmas Eve**. Park in the Methodist's lot and then come over to our Church. There will be an electric candle for you to hold. And we'll form a circle, hear the Christmas story, and sing Silent Night. You'll have to wear a mask. And no Christmas hugs, please. But Christmas will come again nevertheless, and we can welcome the Christ child together. Please use your own judgment regarding whether or not you can participate in this event safely.

Heads Up about December 27 Worship

On **Sunday, December 27**, we will be livestreaming (not pre-recording) our worship service at **10:30 (NOT 10 am)**, from the Bedford Sanctuary. This will Pastor Bruce the opportunity to speak some personal words before his retires at the end of 2020.

***We are Disciples of Christ.**

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

*Disciples of Christ

Statement of Identity

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Ervin

E-Mail:

pastor@firstccbedford.org

Music Ministry:

Choir Director: Jono Palmer

E-Mail:

music@firstccbedford.org

Organist: Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant:

Mitzi Flynn

E-Mail:

firstccbedford@gmail.com

Custodian: Steve Harrell

Church Office Hours

Wednesday: 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Social Media:

Web Page: www.firstccbedford.org

Facebook: First Christian Church
Bedford - DOC

Camp Facebook: Bedford Camp &
Conference Center

Ways to Give to FCC

Mail Checks to FCC at:

1101 15th St

Bedford, IN 47421

In Person

Wednesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

and slide it under the Treasurer's door

An Invitation to Community

As God has welcomed us, we welcome you.

With all our differences--

in age, ability and physical condition,

in race, cultural background and economic status,

in sexual orientation, gender identity & family
structure--

God has received each one

with loving kindness, patience and joy.

All that we are together

and all that we hope to be

is made more perfect

as the richness of varied lives

meets the mystery of God's unifying Spirit

and we become the Body of Christ.