

FALCON HEIGHTS CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcomes you to Advent Vespers

*As seekers and servants growing in God's transforming love, we will speak the truth in love, celebrate each other's gifts and perspectives, and choose the good of the whole church over our individual preferences and comforts.*

4:30 p.m.

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

November 29, 2020

GATHERING MUSIC

"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

arr. G. Winston Cassler

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Opening Verse from the Prophets

Isaiah 64:1-4

Song: "Be a Candle of Light"

***Be a Candle of light, Light a candle of HOPE,  
a beacon of truth in a dark, hopeless time.  
Share the light with a friend and watch the flame grow.  
The more light we give the more love we'll know.***

Lighting the Week's Candle – *people may light their own candle as we light it.*

CALL TO UNBURDENING

UNBURDENING TOGETHER (All) – *a prayer of confession*

**God of unveiled truth, faithful flame in times of darkened sun and waning moon, we offer you our unknowing hearts, our love for you and for others that has fallen asleep, that you may awaken us. We confess we are afraid of the uncertainty that lies ahead, yet believe we have no role in transforming the world you love. Announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace, and make us alert in our watching and bold in our action; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37

Bonnie Russ

CONTEMPORARY READING

"The Armor of Light"

John Buck

from *The Clown in the Belfry*, by Frederick Buechner

REFLECTION

*Inhabiting Our Longing*

Rev. Rick

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

VISUAL LITURGY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND JESUS' PRAYER (All)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Mother and Father of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! May your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth! With the bread we need for today, feed us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us; for you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND GRATITUDE

<https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/falconheightschurch>

OFFERTORY

“Come to Us, O Promised One”  
*Chancel Choir; recorded on December 15, 2013*

Lloyd Larson

CLOSING PRAYER *(All)*

**Be light in our darkness, O God, and in your great mercy shield us from fears and dangers in the nighttime of this world; for the love of your Holy Child, our Protector Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SUNGBENEDICTION

*Wait for the Lord*  
***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near;***  
***Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!***

Taizé