



Our Cold, Love's Fire

Fire in Block of Ice. Photo by Timon Studler on unsplash.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

As we gather to worship notice the image on the cover of your bulletin. Members of the Board of Music and Arts have curated images to enrich our exploration of "Our Deep Longings" throughout the season of Advent.

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Xan Morgan

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland
(Now Come, Savior of the Nations)

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow
(1663-1712, German)

*INVOCATION

(*If you are able, please stand)

Mary Fay Grange

*HYMN 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 80:1-7

Mary Fay Grange

One: Hear us, O Shepherd of your people! You who are enthroned on the praises of heaven, shine before us.

All: Stir your strength and come to save us.

One: You have fed your people with the bread of tears, and given them tears in abundance to drink.

All: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Harvey Slaughter & Phyllis Wright Slaughter

Congregational Response (Hymn 211, verse 1):

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachai 3:1-2

Mary Fay Grange

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

(Children are invited to come forward. Following Time as Children, kids will leave for Church School.)

(Hymnal, 204)

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deborah Levine

ANTHEM

An Advent Reflection

- Joseph M. Martin

In the shadows of our waiting, in the stillness of our night,
in the shadows we are listening for the music of your light.
Now into our fragile longing, we lift our voice and we pray.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, sing into our lives today.

In the quiet of our worship, in the whisper of our prayers.
Lord, we are yearning for assurance and new hope for our despair.
With each candle's golden flicker, we cry to you in faith.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, heal our wounded heart today.

Come, Promised One! Come, and fill this place.
How we long for your embrace. Come, live in our praise!
In the rising of our spirits, in the beauty of your love,
We find mercy, we find comfort, strength to lift our eyes above.

Now we see your star before us, teach us to follow and obey.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, shine upon our world today.
Come, sing into our night. Come, heal our wounded hearts.
Come, shine upon our world today.

SERMON

Our Deep Longing: Our Cold, Love's Fire

Paul Simpson Duke

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Come Down, O Love Divine

- William H. Harris

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illumining.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

All: Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

The Bread and the Cup *Meditation on Picardy* by G. Winston Cassler

Est ist ein Ros' entsprungen by A. Josef Monar

Prayer after Communion

***HYMN 557** (verse 1)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Dale Wood
(1934-2003, American)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in memory of Carol Stumpf on her birthday.*

~ The Alaniz Family ~

We pray for **Beth Foster, Marlene Francis, Lois Wilson Crabtree, Betty Doman, Eva Kelly, Jill Damon, Betty Gerstler, Marilyn Marsh, Esther Floyd, Mervyn Juchartz, David Gregg, Mike Kelly, Chuck Suits, Lovely Varghese, Paul Larson, Peter & Lani VanEck, Grange Burnside, Mrs. Essie Slaughter, the Sanford family, Simona Butler, John Rowe, Fay Key, and Nancy Bradford**

Our Fellowship Offering this morning goes to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)**. RMMO is a congregational offering and a joint project of ABC-USA and MMBB. Collected annually in December from participating congregations, RMMO funds are distributed as "Thank You" checks to ABC-USA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. If you donate by check, please write it to FBC and indicate RMMO in the memo line. If a cash donation, please use the envelopes located in the pews. Thank you for your generosity.

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Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Coley Roberts, *Children's Choir Director*

Kate Gregg, *Nursery Caregiver*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

We're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.



You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.

Church service hearing aids are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall. We look forward to connecting with you!

Children's Ministry. All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant through 3 years). If you would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org)

On the first Sunday of each month it's "S3 - Stay for the Service Sunday" when the 2nd-5th grade class will stay in worship for the whole service. This gives the kids an opportunity to experience and participate in the second half of worship. This is a valuable step in their faith formation as worshipers! They are invited to sit with Xan and their classmates during worship. Following worship, the 2nd-5th graders will attend Fellowship Time with their families until Children's Choir begins at 11:30.

Youth (grades 6-12) are invited to join adults for Fellowship Time following worship and then head to the to the newly renovated Youth Room below the sanctuary for Youth Group, 11:30a- 12:30p. All youth grades 6-12 are invited to enjoy snacks and games and discuss their faith together. If you would like more information about Youth Ministry, please connect with Valerie Francia (valerie@fbca2.org).

Today in our Second Hour Adult Formation class, we begin our final unit the series, "We Seek To...." This session will be a conversation on "We Seek to Share what We Have." Paul Duke will be presenting and facilitating the discussion. We hope you can join us.

Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community

Today is the last day for donations. We still are needing lots more kid-friendly foods like cereal, pasta, canned fruit and veggies, and other favorites. Your financial donations cover the household supplies and necessities we have purchased (toilet paper, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.) for the 30 families at Hikone. Please place your financial donation in the offering plate today with a notation that it is for Hikone and bring your food donations this afternoon to the Countdown to Christmas event.

Many hands are needed to sort, box, and deliver to Hikone this **Tuesday, December 5**, 10:30-12:30. Please let Sue Ellen know if you can join us at church (10:30-11:30) or with delivery (11:30-12:30).

FBCA2 Hosts the Overnight Rotating Shelter in December – 5 volunteers needed! During the cold winter months, the emergency overnight shelter at Delonis is not sufficient for the need in the community. FBCA2 will help fill the gap by hosting the overnight rotating shelter Monday, December 11 through Sunday, December 17. We need 3 volunteers each evening - 1 evening and 2 overnight - to provide hospitality to our guests. Please connect with Kevin Morgan (ktmorgan@umich.edu) if you have any questions. You can sign up for this important ministry at fbca2.org/connect or at the ministry station in the hallway.

Wool Roving & Yarn Sale this Saturday, Dec 9, from 10:00a -12p in the Memorial Lounge. As many of you know, Pastor Stacey loved to knit and she often spun her own yarn from wool roving. We are hosting a sale of her yarn and wool roving; it's a treat to think of all the beauty that will come of it. Please invite friends who work with wool to stop by. Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org) or Kristin Reynolds (kristinreynolds@comcast.net).

Hello Bakers! The AB Women's Ministries will be holding their annual Bake Sale on Sunday, Dec 10th. If there are any bakers who would like to contribute, please bring your cookies, candies, breads, cakes, pies, etc. on Saturday, Dec 9th, between 10am and 12 noon. We will have a crew to accept and set out for the sale on Sunday. Mark it on your calendar!

Those who would like to benefit from the Bake Sale – get ready to feast your eyes on a great selection of goodies!! We have had a great selection of small size and family size baked goods for daily consumption or for family gatherings during the holidays. Mark it on your calendar! See you there. If more information is needed, connect with Carolyn Grapentine (csgrape@aol.com).

The FBC Ladies' Book Club will next meet on Tuesday, December 5th at 7 pm. Maryann Bowen has graciously agreed to host our discussion of *Late Migrations* by Margaret Renkl. Please do not hesitate to contact Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg if you have any questions. All ladies are welcome!

Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at fbca2.org/connect or use the QR code to the right.



Calendar

November 26	Sanctuary Decoration @11:30a
December 5	The Gathering @5:30p
December 6	Bible Study @1:00p
December 7	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
December 9	Wool Roving & Yarn Sale @10am-12p (Lounge)
	Drop Off Baked Good Donations @10am-12p
December 10	AB Women's Ministries Bake Sale @11:15a
Dec 11-18	Host Overnight Rotating Shelter
Dec 18-29	Host Daytime Warming Shelter

Poinsettia Orders. Each year we decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias in honor/memory of those we love for the Christmas season. Poinsettias are \$20.00 each. The deadline to order is Wednesday, Dec 6. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you after the Lessons and Carol service on Christmas Eve or the worship service on Christmas morning. You can sign up at fbca2.org/connect or drop off this form in the church office.



Please order _____ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services
at \$20 each, and list as such in the bulletin:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

From: _____

I have enclosed \$_____ as payment for the poinsettia(s).

Please have paid orders to the office by Wednesday, December 6. Thank you!