

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent—December 1, 2013

Those who are able may stand where marked (\*).

Gathering Music: #243 “Emmanuel”

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer *Deacon – Ann Craxton*

Prelude “Sicilienne” by Gabriel Fauré *Jo Beth Dudley—flute*

Ministry of the Acolyte

Lighting the Advent Candle *Dorothy and Dudley Bailey*  
*based on Luke 1:26-38*

One: She was young. She was hardly more than a girl  
when the angel came to visit.

**All: “Greetings, Mary, favored one. God has chosen you.”**

One: She was troubled, scared. What kind of messenger,  
what kind of message was this?

**All: “Don’t be afraid. You’ll conceive in your womb,  
and you’ll bear a son. His name will be Jesus.”**

One: She was young, not naïve. She knew the facts of life.  
“How can this be?” she asked. The angel answered:

**All: “God is at work in you. The Spirit of God  
will be with you. Nothing is impossible with God.”**

One: And so young Mary, full of hope, set fear aside  
and answered, “Let it be with me exactly as you’ve said.”

**All: And it was so.**

One: *(light)* For Mary, whose hope was stronger than her fear,  
we light this Advent candle—

**All: For all who hope, for all in whom  
the light of God is dawning.**

\*Hymn: (insert) “When God Is a Child” *vs. 1*

\*Confession: **God of the hopeful heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: there are people we do not want to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we leave undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us now in the dawning of new light. Shine in those places we have hidden from you. Teach our fearful hearts the way of hope, now and forever! Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Gloria Patri #813

\* A Latin American Creed *(insert)*

Children's Time

Anthem “Advent Promise” *Martin*

Moments of Concern and Celebration (please fill out a blue card)

Pastoral Prayer and Savior’s Prayer (“trespasses”)

Worship of God with our Tithes, Offerings and Pledges

Offertory Music

\*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

Sermon: “Hope Stronger than Our Fear”

\*Hymn: *(insert)* “As We Gather at Your Table”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion *(see insert)*

\*Hymn: #244 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

\*Benediction

Choral Response *Sevenfold Amen*

\*Ministry of the Acolyte and Postlude