

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 22, 2013—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

Gathering *Congregational Choice*

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Ann Craxton*

Prelude “Ave Maria” by Franz Schubert *Jo Beth Dudley—flute*

Ministry of the Acolyte

Lighting the Advent Candles *based on Luke 1:46-56*  
*Judy and Bob Oleary*

One: Mary and Elizabeth, impossibly with child,  
rejoiced in God’s great love, and Mary said:  
**All: My soul overflows with praise for you, O God;  
my spirit shouts for joy, for you are with me!**

One: Every generation from now on will call me blessed,  
for you have done great things for me.  
Praise you holy Name!

**All: You are kind to those who tremble before you.  
You scatter the proud, bring the mighty low;  
but the lowly you lift up; you empower.**

One: You fill the hungry with good things to eat;  
but the rich you send empty away.

**All: You remembered your people; you came to our aid;  
you have shown us your mercy and kindness!**

One: *(light)* For all who live in poverty, for all who live in fear,  
for all who wait in darkness for the coming of this child,  
**All: For all who love God’s justice,  
for all who hope for peace,  
for all who welcome Mary’s Child,  
the Living Sign of God’s transforming love . . .**

Hymn *(screen)* “When God is a Child”

Anthem “We Wait for Thee” *Johnson*

Children’s Time “The Cradle that Rocked the World”

Moments of Concern and Celebration  
(Please fill out a blue card in the pew)

Pastoral Prayer

Savior’s Prayer (trespasses)

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music “The Angel Gabriel” *Basque Carol*  
\*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

\*Hymn #281 “What Child Is This”

Scripture Isaiah 7:10-16

Sermon “with us”

\*Hymn #256 “Love Has Come!”

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response *Sevenfold Amen*

\*Postlude

\*Ministry of the Acolyte