

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cranston, RI

10:00 AM

November 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome! We invite you into a time of preparation for worship. We invite you to unplug, turn off your phones, unwind from the past week, and focus your hearts on God's presence within, around, and between us all.

Words of Welcome & Announcements

L: God is present. L: Everywhere, all the time.

C: All the time, everywhere. C: God is present.

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle

L: Just the headlines are enough to fill us all with fear, leaving us feeling scared and helpless.

C: In a world filled with so much hatred and violence it is all too easy to fall into the darkness of fear.

L: Yet in these dark days we turn to our faith – waiting expectant, seeking to hold on to hope in the face of fear.

C: Today we light a candle called Hope, a small, but powerful light shining in the darkness of Fear, and we trust God's presence will allow the light of Hope to lessen the darkness of our fear.

L: I light the candle of Hope to lighten the darkness of Fear.

Invocation

*Hymn #122 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

Question(s) for Reflection

Someday all you will have to light your way will be a single ray of hope and that will be enough. - Kobi Yamada

When has fear kept me from being a ray of hope to someone in need?

When has hope gotten me through a time of darkness?

Silence

Assurance of Blessing

***Sharing of the Sign of Peace**

Let us celebrate God's great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14, *The Message Bible*

Sermon

Hope

***Hymn**

#461 "Let Us Hope" tune: HYFRYDOL

Joys and Concerns / Centering Prayer / Intercessory Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! 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 the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, 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 for ever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless these gifts and the givers that all might carry forward the ministry you intend here in this church and community, and wherever there is a need on the face of the earth. Amen.

***Hymn**

#102 "O How Shall I Receive You"

The Take Home

"Once you choose hope, anything's possible." - Christopher Reeve

Benediction / Sung Response "Go, My Children" (tune: #82)
Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Postlude

We thank Cindy Cornell for serving as lay reader this morning.

Please keep **Cay Browne, Joe DiCiccio, Nancy Soukup, Ricky Brightman, Jeff Gilborn, and Roman Crispi** in your prayers.

Project Outreach has asked us to support their holiday gift giving program again this year. The goal is to help families spend meaningful time together during the Christmas season. From now through December 18th, Edgewood Church will collect gift cards to local restaurants, retailers, and recreational venues. Clients of Project Outreach will be able to dine out, shop, or take in a movie with their loved ones. If you would like to participate, please purchase gift cards of \$25 each or make a donation in any amount you would like. Place gift cards and cash/checks in the collection plate on Sunday and be sure to designate your gift for Project Outreach. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office

Be sure to visit us on the web: <http://edgewoodchurchri.org>

Or on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Edgewood-Congregational-Church-Renewed-871032246620940/>

Ministers All Members
Office Administrator..... Pat Kohler
Music Coordinator Brenda Farrell Muoio
Sexton Tom Ey
Pastor Rev. Bill Sterrett

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1788 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02905

First Sunday of Advent



Hope

No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.

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