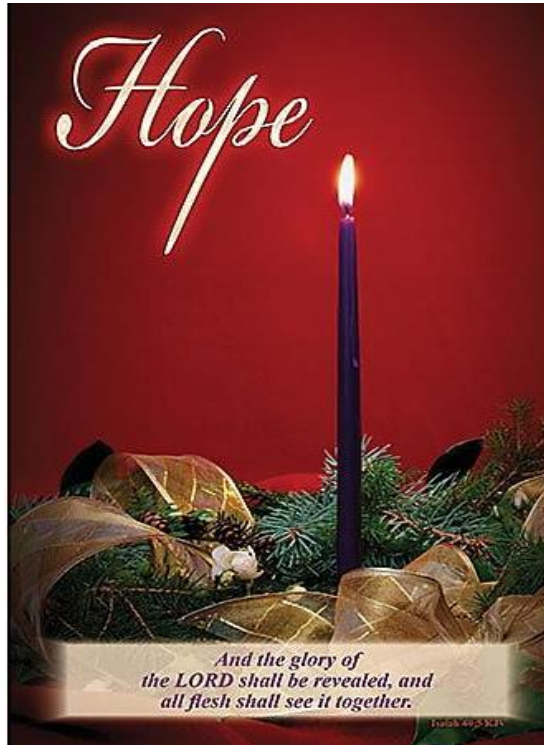


CHURCH OF THE PALMS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Where faith happens and love abounds

1960 N. Swinton Avenue Delray Beach, Florida 33444

561.276.6347 + www.churchofthepalms.net



Sunday, December 1, 2019

10:00 am

First Sunday of Advent

Guests are a special blessing! Please sign our Guest Book, located in the back of the sanctuary where a visitor packet is waiting for you! If you would like to receive our newsletters and weekly emails, include your email address. We are blessed by your presence.



As an **Open and Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ, our goal is to extend to everyone an extravagant welcome in hopes that you will experience the abundant love of God here and be inspired to share that love with the world.

After worship, join us for refreshments and conversation in the Friendship Center.

To enhance your worship experience...

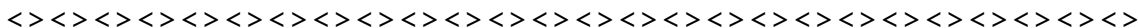
- Kindly silence your cell phone in the sanctuary
- There are no assigned seats – sit where you feel most comfortable
- Back cushions are available in the back pew or ask an usher
- A hearing loop encircles the sanctuary for those with hearing aids`
- If you do not wish to keep your bulletin, please place it in the recycle box as you exit to Friendship Center
- Let us know what we can do for you!

Nursery Care is available for infants and toddlers in the education building. Ask an usher for assistance.

Sunday School classes meet in the Education Building following the Children’s Conversation.

Prayer Requests are welcomed. Please use the *Connect Cards* in the pew rack and place it on the offering plate or call the Church Office.

If you are interested in more information or becoming a member, please complete the information on a *Connect Card* and place it on the offering plate or contact the Church Office to speak with the Pastor.



PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING’S SERVICE

The Reverend Susan Moore

Dr. Kirsten Hellman - Music Director

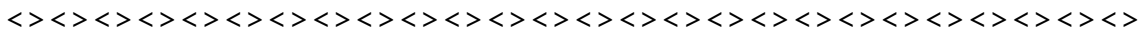
Tania Gilmore - Soprano

Benita Dzhurkova - Violinist

Bud and Deirdre Scott - Advent Candles

April Nobles, Prophete Volcy, Beverly Drolette, Barbara Sinclair - Communion Servers

Lizz Sanders - Liturgist



SERVICE OF THE WORD and SACRAMENT

**please stand, as you are able, in body or spirit*

Words of Welcome and the Life of the Church

Prelude

Let All Flesh

Arranged by Don Michael Dicie for Violin and keyboard

*Call to Worship

One: Days shorten and nights lengthen,
but we are told that the night is almost over.

All: We wait on God's light together.

One: Chaos surrounds us as the business of the season is upon us.

All: We wait in hopeful expectation together.

Lighting of the Advent Candles: ~ Hope

One: Advent is a time of wonder – the wonder of the Promised One. On this first Sunday of Advent we light this candle for Hope and we wonder.

All: “How do we hold on to hope?”

One: We light this candle of hope and wonder,

All: “God is our hope!”

One: We light this candle for hope

All: **And we know the wonder of the Promised One who gives us the gift of hope even when all seems hopeless.**

*Gathering Hymn #103

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

Words for Children of All Ages

Song: God loves me, God loves me. From head to toe I know it's so, God loves me. (Repeat as children leave for Sunday School)

*Invocation

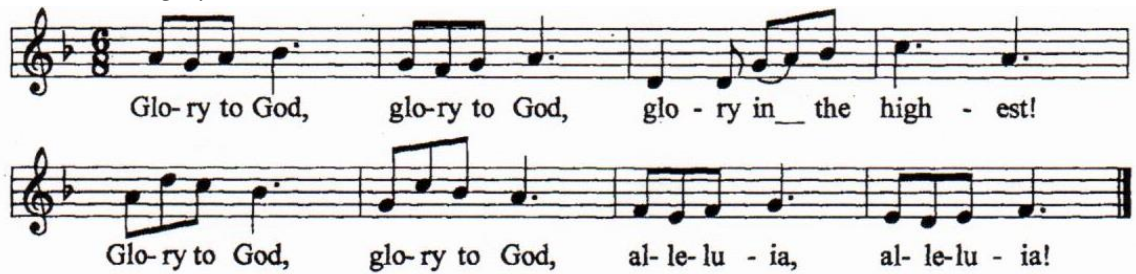
God of Light,

you come to make yourself known to us in loving relationship.

**You come with a message of hope and comfort
for those who are hurting and those who are tired.**

**As you did centuries ago, be with us again today,
in the name of your Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Gloria** (*sung by all*)



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al- le- lu - ia, al- le- lu - ia!

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Almighty God, too often we forget your promises. We love in ways that bring glory only to ourselves. We bask in the false assumption that we are in control of our lives and sometimes try to control others. Help us love others and ourselves with compassion and respect.

Assurance of Pardon

Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts reflecting the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, who came into the world bringing the forgiveness that restores us to wholeness. Amen.

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44
Romans 13:11-14

Sermon

What Time Is It?

***Hymn #110**

Now Bless the God of Israel

Prayers of the People

Our Savior's Prayer (*trespasses*)

Response #769 (*sung by all*)

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

Offering Invitation

Offertory *Zion Hears the Watchman Singing* from Cantata no. 140
by J. S. Bach, arr. by John Shannon

*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

**God of hope and wonder, even surrounded by confusion and trouble
we look for you.
Take these gifts and use them for acts of justice, peace, mercy, and hope.
Receive also the gifts of our time and our actions that are just as precious to
you as silver and gold. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Jesus said: I am the bread of life, you who come to me shall not hunger;
you who believe in me will never thirst.

All: **In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come
to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

Communion Prayer

Remembering Jesus' Words at the Last Supper

Sharing God's Gracious Feast

**It is the custom of the Reformed tradition, including the United Church of Christ,
to receive Holy communion as one body. When served, please take and hold a
piece of bread – all eat together when directed. In the same way, take and hold a
cup when served – all drink together. By eating and drinking together, we are
transformed into the Body of Christ. The quiet during serving is a time to
commune with God in prayer and reflection. The elements used are unfermented
grape juice and gluten free bread.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*in unison*)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #117** *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

You are invited to exit quietly or remain seated during the postlude to enjoy a last moment of worship.

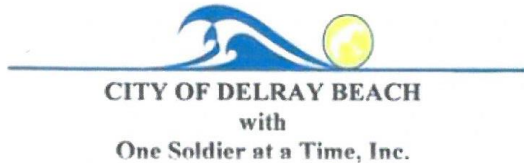
Benediction (*please be seated*)

Postlude

Veni Emmanuel
by Robert J. Powell



Last Day to DONATE is December 6



14th Annual PROJECT HOLIDAY **SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN** **DEPLOYED OVERSEAS DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

- Thermoguard pads (heating pads)
- Bags of hard, individually wrapped candy (lifesavers, dollar store hard candy, no chocolates except for tootsie rolls, tootsie roll pops).
- Snacks to put in their pockets while on duty (fruit cups, peanut butter crackers)
- Gum
- Beef jerky, Slim Jims, pepperoni or similar dried meats
- Boxes of granola bars, protein bars, crackers
- Individual bags of nuts, dried fruit, trail mix or sunflower seeds
- Boxed and/or individual drink packets (Crystal Light (with caffeine), Wal-Mart or Target brand, Kool-Aid, hot chocolate, etc)
- Foil packed tuna and chicken
- Sun block (non-aerosol)
- Lip balm
- Baby wipes (no bigger than 2 ½" wide packages)
- Purell hand sanitizer (small sizes)
- Eye drops
- Hand lotion (small sizes)
- Batteries (AA or AAA)
- Foot powder (small sizes)
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste, Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- Socks (white or black knee-hi)
- Soap, razors (disposable), shampoo (travel size)
- Feminine products
- Toiletries – travel size
- Holiday decorations – all faiths (small)
- Note cards for troops to use, also cards, notes and letters of encouragement to troops

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS: DECEMBER 6, 2019

CONTACT PERSON: DELORES RANGEL (561) 243-7010

Financial donations can also be made to assist with postage.

Please NO: Canned foods, family size items, pump dispensers, aerosols, chocolate, glass or alcohol.

