

FIRST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
AT 10:30 a.m.

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

join us "in-person" or "online" at:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc>

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome at First Community UMC.*

** As an inclusive community, we invite you to sing & confess your faith in the language that you feel comfortable.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today is designated **United Methodist Student Day**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our seminarians to participate in today's worship and 1st Day of Advent service.
- If you wish to donate to UMC Student Day's Special Sunday offering, please visit the church website for a donation link to UMCGiving or mail it directly to: GCFA, P.O. Box 3400029, Nashville, TN 370203.
- Many thanks to all who contributed to our Food Pantry Mini-Mission!
- A special Charge Conference of the Church Board of Trustees and Leadership Team will be held online on Monday, November 29 at 7:00pm via Zoom [Team Meeting Link](#). The intent of this meeting will be to Vote on a Resolution Related to the Boy Scouts of America's Bankruptcy Process. The public are welcome to attend. For details, visit the church website at www.firstcommunitymedford.org. Information packets are available on a desk in the church office.
- **Upcoming meetings and events include:**
 - **Wednesday, December 1 | 7pm | Bible Study** (week 3 of 4): [Bible Study Link](#)
- The **Church Office** will be closed Monday, 11/29.

Church Staff

Pastor: Cristian De La Rosa
Hours: Sunday 9:00am-10:30am
Monday 9:00am-12:00noon
Friday 10:00am-2:00pm
Options to Meet: in Church Parlor, by phone or via Zoom
Cell: 540-550-9251
Email: pastor@firstcommunitymedford.org
To set up a meeting: calendly.com/cdlrosa

Music Director: Luci Rexroad

Church Administrator
Hours: Monday & Thursday 9:30am-12:30pm
Office: 781-396-5436
Email: office@firstcommunitymedford.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc>
Website: www.FirstCommunityMedford.org

During the week ahead, please pray for these friends:

November 28 – Dorothy & Frank Seamster
November 29 – Kevin & Owen Seamster
November 30 – Ebiye Seimode
December 1 – Jennifer & Sean Tappendorf
December 2 – Dylan Tappendorf &
Genevieve Tappendorf
December 3 – David Twiddy & Rebecca Stevenson
December 4 – Lydia Twiddy & J.J. Twiddy
December 5 – Miriam Twiddy

Our Worship Service

Worship Leader: Claudia Alvarez
Hymn Leader: Susan Rati Lane
Bell Ringer & Acolyte: Autumn Lane
Piano Accompanist: Luci Rexroad
Tech Support: Felix Jibrin

*Thank you for joining us. Please use these quiet moments
to center yourself and prepare for worship...*

**Where noted, please stand as you are able.*

BELL RINGING & CANDLE LIGHTING

Bell Ringer & Acolyte

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

-arr. by Cindy Barry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claudia Alvarez

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Something stirs deep within us – a longing, a hope,

All: A thirst for joy, a hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing.

Leader: We know deep within that our hopes and fears

All: Will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

Leader: It is Advent -

All: Season of waiting, hoping, yearning.

Leader: Advent -

All: Time to go home.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“Casa RAICES” Boston University Students

COMMUNAL PRAYER (*in unison*)²

God of peace,

We see the signs.

We raise our heads in expectation
during this joyful holy season.

Let us also open our hearts to those who need love
and offer our hands to those who need strength
as we anticipate Jesus’ arrival. Amen

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Sandra Barrios

*** HYMN UMH 519**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

–James Weldon Johnson, 1921

Hymn Leaders

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

(Hymn continued next page.)

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Andres De Arco

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

WORDS: Michael Perry, 1973

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

*** READING FROM THE GOSPELS:**

Luke 10:38-42

Rev. Nataly Romero

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Is It Time Already?”

Rev. Nataly Romero, Pastoral Intern

*** HYMN³**

“The Promise of the Lord”

– Richard Garland, 2009

Tune: “Rejoice the Lord Is King” (UMH Number 715) Hymn Leaders

1. The promise of the Lord appears in righteousness,
and justice comes again through God’s sure faithfulness.
with eager hope and confidence
We come to claim deliverance.

2. We lift our souls to you, O God of steadfast love.
Teach us your ways and will and show your realm above:
with mercy bless, our sins forgive,
that we may turn and humbly live.

(Hymn continued next page.)

3. We raise thanksgivings too, for all we have received.
In joy we praise the one in whom we have believed.
The Lord is whom we come to meet,
to make our faithfulness complete.
4. God's promise still endures. Redemption now draws near.
His coming we await: for Love will soon appear.
In Christ is born the Child of Grace,
to hold the world in love's embrace!

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER

Paulo Llanco

LORD'S PRAYER

Paulo Llanco

Our Father [God/Creator], who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom [kin-dom], come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom [kin-dom],
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER ⁴

Claudia Alvarez

Holy God of new beginnings,
As we share our tithes and offerings with you,
we are filled with hope.
We enter the season of Advent with expectation;
we have left behind us
a time of fear, isolation, and uncertainty;
and we raise our heads
because we know our redemption is coming near.
May our gifts be dedicated to help heal
the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah
into the world once again.
In Christ, we pray. Amen.

-Luke 21:25-36

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*** DOXOLOGY *UMH 95***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Paulo Llanco

*** HYMN**⁵

“Prophets Told Us ‘Pay Attention!’ ” – Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2018
Tune: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (UMH Number 220) Hymn Leaders

1. Prophets told us, "Pay attention! God is working in the land.
Lo, the days are surely coming; seek the justice God has planned!
Seek the signs of your redemption; hear God's word and understand!"
2. Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention! Nature's signs are sure and clear:
When the trees grow leaves and blossom, summertime is almost here."
So it is in God's good kingdom; be alert; God's reign is near!
3. As we welcome your salvation, all around we see distress;
There is trouble in the nations! There is greed and wickedness;
As we trust in your redemption, may we live your righteousness.
4. May we work for what you call for; may we labor for your reign.
Families cry out at the border; children suffer grief and pain.
May your church, committed, prayerful, work for justice in your name.
5. Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention!" So we humbly serve and pray:
May we gladly live your kingdom in a world that's gone astray.
May the hope of our salvation guide the things we do and say.

BENEDICTION

Paulo Llanco

Please remain seated for reflection until the conclusion of the Postlude.

**POSTLUDE & PERMISSION TO
PODCAST/STREAM MESSAGE**

“All Earth Is Waiting”

-Alberto Taulè

If you have not signed the attendance log located at the back of the sanctuary, please do so now.

*As we continue to follow COVID protocols, you will find our offering plate
on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

At this time, we are unable to remain in the church or offer coffee hour after the service.

Copyright/references info here

Permission obtained from CCLI #21000626 and ONE LICENSE #A-715349 to podcast/stream music in our service.

^{1,4} <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-home-for-christmas/first-sunday-of-advent-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes>

² DiCocco, B. (2021, November 23). A daily prayer from the New England Conference.

³ Text used by permission of United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries.

⁵ Text used by permission of the author.