

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

November 29, 2020

*"First Sunday of Advent"*

10:00 am

---

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**SONG**

***"Choose to Hope"***

*Hope is born when we choose to believe that love is stronger than hatred;  
Love is born when our hearts learn to see that ev'ry person is sacred.  
In the times of darkness, in times of fear, choose to hope, choose to love,  
and know that God is near.*

*Hope will shine when we choose to believe a little child will lead us;  
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see that God is dwelling within us.  
In the times of darkness, in times of fear, choose to hope, choose to love,  
and know that God is near.*

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 13:32-37**

**HOMILY**

**Waiting**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SONG**

***"Waiting for the Lord"***

*Refrain: Waiting, waiting, waiting for the Lord;  
Waiting, waiting, waiting for the Lord.*

*Out of the depths I cry to you; Can you hear my voice, O God?  
Let your ears listen closely to my cries for help.  
My soul is waiting for you, Lord. Refrain*

*My soul is waiting for you, Lord, more than watchers for the morn.  
With my hope resting only on your Holy Word,  
My soul is waiting for you Lord. Refrain*

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – South Africa**

**We believe in one God who created all the world,  
who will unite all things in Christ  
and who wants all people to live together in one family.**

**We believe in God the Son who became human:  
died and rose in triumph to reconcile all the world to God,  
to break down every separating barrier of race, culture or class  
and to unite all people into one body.**

**We believe in God the Spirit, the pledge of God's coming reign  
who gives the Church power to proclaim the good news to all the world,  
to love and serve all people, to strive for justice and peace:  
to warn that God judges both the individual and the nations;  
and to summon all the world to accept God's reign, here and now. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

**...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SONG**

***"For the Fruit of All Creation"***

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.*

*For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.*

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,*

*Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.*

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Dan Filkins, Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Grace (mother of Lori Larson), Chuck (Jan Hansen's brother in law), Logan (friend of Juli Okal), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Mark and Caroline Ferry (friends of Joy Anderson), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friends of Trautmillers), Jennie Sperling, Peg Thompson, Fred Roethlisberger, Nancy Giske (mother of Gina Larson), Jean Hagberg, Ginny Larson, Miles Voster (friend of Grisars), Irene Field, Ruth Reilly, Sarah Kearns (daughter of Norma and Roger Veith)

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For the 60 families who are enjoying the Advent Ornament Kits, that they may kindle joy this Advent season
- For our church as we seek to conclude our 2021 Discipleship Campaign, that we may prayerfully reflect on our blessings and generously support the mission and ministry of our church
- For the nearly 100 people who joined us for the online Learning Community this past Thursday where we learned about River Falls native and past church member James Laue and his work with the Rev. Martin Luther King for peace and justice.
- For our Sunday School families who are picking up the December Faith At Home Bags which have some amazing crafts and activities
- For our yoga group who are now hibernating until after New Year's (you can still access their YouTube channel with past sessions)
- For those seeking to support our community outreach programs to the Kinnic Rehab (Shoebox Ministry), shut-ins and special friends (Amaryllis bulbs), families in need (Angels on Earth), that they may be a blessing to both the giver and those to whom we give
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts, bless you!

**Prayers for our World:**

- For our families and community as we seek to gather safely for the Thanksgiving holiday
- For a safe and successful hunting season
- For students, families and teachers trying to manage online learning
- For healthcare workers who are on the frontlines of the COVID crisis, that they may be given God's strength and that we may all do our part to enable them to treat the virus
- For the 250,000 people who have died from COVID in our country in the past 8 months, may they not have died in vain
- For those quarantining due to COVID-19, may they stay home and find ways to stay busy
- For those working for a vaccine for COVID-19, that God may speed their work

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For Laura and Mark Anderson who decorated the urns at the entrance of the church
- For Donna and Mike Moseman who are delivering this month's treat bags to the shut-ins which are overflowing with goodies, that they may be a tangible sign of God's grace
- For Marshall Skule who made 40 nativity sets for families to assemble and use at home
- For Pastor Stacy and her team who put together incredible Advent Ornament Kits and the December Faith At Home Bags
- For the now 3 different vaccines, that they may quickly, safely and equitably be shared in our world
- For Eunice Filkins who made pocket prayer quilts for shut-ins and Joan Hyland who made yet more quilts to be given at baptisms
- For those who helped make our fall Wednesday Night meal program a success!
- For the blessings of daily life, even in a pandemic

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For those in mourning, including Zeman and Greub families as well as all those who have died from Covid-19

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 13:32-37**

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

---

*Worship participants for this week:*

*Audio/Visual:* Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers  
*Music:* Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson  
*Counters:* Allen Barnes, Roz Ostendorf  
*Preacher:* Rev. Chris Myers

---

**Treasurer's Report**

	Week of <u>Nov 22, 2020</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 9,524	\$ 437,784
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,582	\$ 450,354

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

---

Website referenced in today's homily:

[www.theinvisiblegorilla.com](http://www.theinvisiblegorilla.com)