First Congregational United Church of Christ

608 West Fourth Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50702
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Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022

COME BEFORE WINTER
2 Timothy 4:21

Guest Organist	**Guest Preacher**	**Director of Youth**
Anne Hoekstra	Rev. Brad Braley	Abbie Chronister
Director of Music	**Worship Leader**	**Office Manager**
Luke Overton	Nancy Mahood	Michelle Wolfe
Organist	**Mini-Message**	**Custodian**
Hudson Lourenço-Feld	Greg Hoekstra	Kyle Lindaman

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

Prelude　　　　　　　*Mary, Woman of the Promise* - by Peter Planyavsky　　　Anne Hoekstra

Welcome

Announcements　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nancy Mahood

Call to Worship　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nancy Mahood

Leader: Prepare the way!

People: Deck the halls and light the candles.

Leader: Prepare the way!

People: Open the doors and sing a song of hope.

Leader: Prepare the way!

People: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.

One: Christ is coming.

All: Prepare the way!

Opening Prayer (unison)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nancy Mahood

Creator God— Not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be peacemakers and advocates, listeners and good Samaritans. Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend to a stranger and a neighbor to those in need. Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be the people you call us to be. And yet, day after day, we lose sight of your hope for this world. Forgive us for walking a different path, and grant us the strength to prepare a new way— Your way—here.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

*Opening Hymn　　　　　　*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*　　　#116, vs 1-2, 6-7 (NCH - Black)

Lighting of the Advent Candle　　　　　(Peace Can't Wait)　　　Traer Owens & Eli Lennox

Joys & Concerns　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nancy Mahood

Prayers of the People　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nancy Mahood

Lord's Prayer　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Nancy Mahood

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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
　　　　For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Mini-Message		Greg Hoekstra
Invitation to Offertory		Nancy Mahood
Offertory	*Creation Will Be at Peace* by Anna Laura Page	Chancel Choir
***Doxology**		#515 (Pilgrim - Red)
***Prayer of Dedication**		Nancy Mahood
Scripture Lesson	Matthew 3:1-6, 11 2 Timothy 4:9-13, 16-18	Rev. Brad Braley
Message	*"Come Before Winter"*	Rev. Braley
***Hymn**	*Softly and Tenderly*	(See Page 4)

(Text and music: Will L. Thompson, 1880. This song is in the Public Domain.)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion   Rev. Braley

  Invitation to Holy Communion

   Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

  Blessing and Distribution of the Elements

***Hymn**	*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*	#117 (NCH - Black)
Benediction		Rev. Braley
Postlude	*Trumpet Tune on 'Wachet Auf"* - by Martha Sobaje	Anne Hoekstra

* You are invited to Stand

(Hearing assistance devices are available in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary.)

Childcare for students up to 5th grade is provided after the Mini-Message and until Communion (youth will come back upstairs at this time to participate in Communion with their families). We welcome your child(ren) to follow youth staff to the childcare room (located at the bottom of the steps closest to the sanctuary) at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.

Softly and Tenderly

It's time to order your Poinsettias!!!

It's that time of year! You may fill out this order form and place in the offering plate or call Michelle at the church office. Orders may be placed any time by Friday, December 16th. *($12.00 per plant)*

We will be ordering live poinsettias this year so you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service.

Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church *(write "poinsettia" in the memo).*

Poinsettia(s) given by: _____

"In Memory of....": _____

"In Honor of....": _____