


# November 29, 2026

## Advent 1

## Join Us on Zoom!

### Click to Join Online

Meeting ID: 839 2872 7469 Password: 890967

1. Call **1-312-626-6799**.
2. When prompted, enter **839 2872 7469 #**.
3. When prompted to enter your participant ID, just press **#**.

*Cultivating a community for all to belong, rooted in Jesus' way of love and justice.*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Minnesota
United Church of Christ

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

***Gathering Hymn 116** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vv. 1–3, 6–7

*For verse 1 and the refrain, please sing these alternate words.*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and with your people always dwell;
Who mourn in lonely exile here,
until the child of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us and with us ever dwell!

**Story of Tamar** adapted from the work of Rev. Lette Rogers based on Genesis 38

**Lighting the First Advent Candle**

Leader: Today, we kindle the first candle of Advent, and remember Jesus' ancestor Tamar.

*[Candle is lit]*

Leader: We cry out for justice, especially for the vulnerable and oppressed. For whom do you cry out today?

**All: We remember Tamar, and all whose voices go unheard.**

Leader: May we, like Tamar, speak the truth with boldness and courage.

**All: May your light illuminate our paths with justice and resilience. Amen.**

**Candle Lighting Song** "The Work of Hope" (song sheet)

**Scripture** 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

**Time with Children**

**Sermon**

***Hymn 121** "All Earth Is Waiting"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*A commonly used form is printed here. You are welcome to use any version meaningful to you.*

**Our God, 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, and the power, and the glory forever.**
**Amen.**

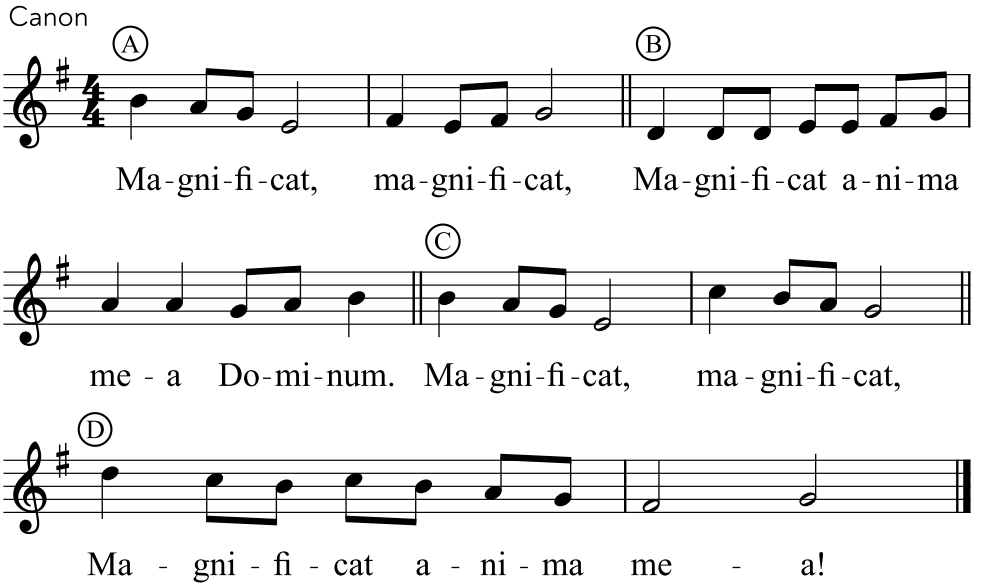
## Offering Invitation

*We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. November's special offering supports Southeast Seniors.* Give Online

## *Offertory Anthem

## *Offertory Response "Magnificat"

*"Magnificat" is the song of Mary, found in Luke 1:46–55: "My soul magnifies God … who brings the powerful down from their thrones and lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty."*

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## *Prayer of Dedication

**God-with-us, we give you our imperfect hope. Amen.**

## SENDING

## Announcements

## *Hymn 15 "My Heart Is Overflowing"

## *Benediction

## Postlude

*Please join us for coffee, food, and fellowship in the Gathering Hall following the postlude.*

**Thanks to those who are taking part in worship today.**

Valet ..... Tom Lincoln
Candle Lighters ..... The Almén Family
Reader ..... Jean Anderson
Tech Support ..... Cynthia Hendricks, Scott Williams
Coffee Hour ..... Kris Felbeck
Flowers ..... Kris Felbeck

# After Worship Today

**Democracy in Action Bridge Brigade.** Grab your coffee and your protest sign (and a chair if that would be helpful) and join us on the pedestrian bridge over I-35W next to the church to embody hope and resist authoritarianism.

**All-Ages Advent Crafts & Cookie Rolling.** Come and join in the fun and our ongoing work to build connections between generations! Meet us in the Gathering Hall after worship to create Advent decorations for the church, as well as make other Advent-related crafts and wreaths to take home. We will also be rolling and cutting cookie dough and baking cookies in preparation for our annual Cookie Extravaganza on Sunday, December 20 (some dough mixing might be needed, too). It goes without saying that there will also be good conversation and lots of snacks.

**Holiday Bazaar @ UBC.** This year there are two opportunities to shop for hand made Christmas surprises from church members and friends. Today, the bazaar is at University Baptist Church from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In addition to checking something off your list, a portion of the purchase price supports a charitable cause of the maker's choice—it's a win-win!

# Coming Up

**Annual Meeting—December 6.** The 2026 annual meeting will take place in the sanctuary and on Zoom after worship on Sunday, November 6.

**Toy Giveaway—Setup Help Needed.** Once again we're organizing a free toy giveaway for the holidays, and it's time to start setting up for next Sunday's event! There will be several opportunities this week to hep get everything ready; **contact Mercedes** (612-756-3114) to learn more.

**Holiday Bazaar @ First Church—December 14.** Don't miss this opportunity to shop for hand made Christmas surprises from church members and friends! On Sunday, December 13, the holiday bazaar will be at First Church from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In addition to checking something off your list, a portion of the purchase price supports a charitable cause of the maker's choice—it's a win-win!

**Christmas Cookie Extravaganza.** Join us after worship on December 20 for an all-ages event—our annual Cookie Extravaganza! We will be decorating Christmas cookies for Community Kitchen (and some to take home) and writing cards to those in the First Church community who can't be with us in person. Invite a friend to join you! If you have questions or are willing to help facilitate this event, please **contact Sarah Almén** (512-809-9788).

**Staff Note.** The church office is currently closed and will reopen on Wednesday, December 2.

**Worship Helpers Needed.** Advent is here, and we need people to serve as ushers, readers, and coffee hour hosts. Take a minute to look at the available slots and **sign up now**!

**Pantry Swap on Friday.** Southeast Neighbors Network has organized another neighborhood pantry swap at First Church. If you'd like to participate, you can drop off unexpired shelf-stable food on Tuesday between 9:00 a.m. and noon, or on Thursday between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Then, come pick out something new to take home on Friday, December 4, between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Regular Gatherings

Bible Study—Tuesday, December 1 (noon—Zoom option)
Craft Group—Wednesday, December 2 (11:00 am)
Family Gathering—Sunday, December 13 (11:30 am)
Confirmation Gathering—Sunday, December 13 (noon @ ULCH)
Elder Gathering—Monday, December 14 (1:00 pm on Zoom)
Evening Handcraft Group—Monday, December 21 (7:00 pm @ TBD)

## Week of November 30–December 6

Meals on Wheels Delivery This Week

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mon (11/30) | 9:30 am | Southeast Play Group | Basement |
| Tue (12/1) | noon | Bible Study | Library/Zoom |
| Wed (12/2) | 11:00 am | Crafting Group | Library |
| | 7:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Thu (12/3) | 9:30 am | Southeast Play Group | Basement |
| Sun (12/6) | 9:00 am | Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| | 9:30 am | Coffee Hour | Gathering Hall |
| | 10:00 am | Worship | Sanctuary/Zoom |
| | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour | Gathering Hall |
| | 11:15 am | Annual Meeting | Sanctuary/Zoom |
| | *11:15 am* | *Democracy in Action: Bridge Brigade* | *I-35W Ped. Bridge* |
| | 1:00 pm | Toy Giveaway | Basement |
| | *1:00 pm* | *Worship Team* | *Zoom* |
| | *6:00 pm* | *Democracy Support Group* | *Zoom* |

## Get Connected

**Weekly Email.** You can sign up to receive all the news on Thursday afternoons, as well as other important updates.

**Online & Text Giving.** Give Online You can also give by texting 612-999-1236: text **$10** to give $10 to the general offering or **$10 special** to give $10 to the monthly special offering (you can text any amount).

**Democracy in Action Signal Groups.** Our Democracy In Action group has Signal chats for both urgent alerts/opportunities and general democracy-related conversation. Learn More and Connect

**Worship Volunteers.** Can you lend a hand in worship as a reader or usher? Ready to tackle coffee hour? Sign Up to Help in Worship

## *Wherever you are on life's journey, let us walk with you . . .*

Pastor Jane's typical work week is Sunday through Thursday. Please call or email her to set up appointments as she is in and out of the office. She hopes you will contact her for support and prayer in times of illness, hospitalization, or crisis. If your need is urgent, you may call or text her cell phone at any time of the week.

**Assistive listening devices** are available from the ushers.

**We welcome you to visit the remembrance area** at any time during worship. At the back of the sanctuary there is table with journals that can be utilized to write or draw your remembrances in memory of a loved one. You can also light a candle on the columbarium.

**Children are most welcome** in worship at First Church. Families are invited to use the kids' corner in the front of the sanctuary during worship. We are working to become an inclusive community that welcomes people of all abilities within all church spaces. If you have questions or comments about sharing our worship service with those of differing abilities, please speak to Pastor Jane.

**Valet parking is available** every week for those who find it difficult to navigate the walk from a parking spot to the church. Valets will meet you at the 8th Ave. entrance, assist you in getting inside and park your car for you (and get it for you after the service). If the valet sign is posted and you don't see a parker, please wait for them to return.

**November's Special Offering** benefits Southeast Seniors. From their offices at First Church, Southeast Seniors coordinates services to help neighbors age 65 and older live well at home.

**For our Advent services this year**, we've adapted materials from *Preparing the Way: A Herstory of Hope*, an Advent resource designed by the Nourishing Vocation Project through the Lutheran Center at St. Olaf College.

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**Cover Art:** *Tamar* by Rev. Lindsay Fertig-Johnson

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