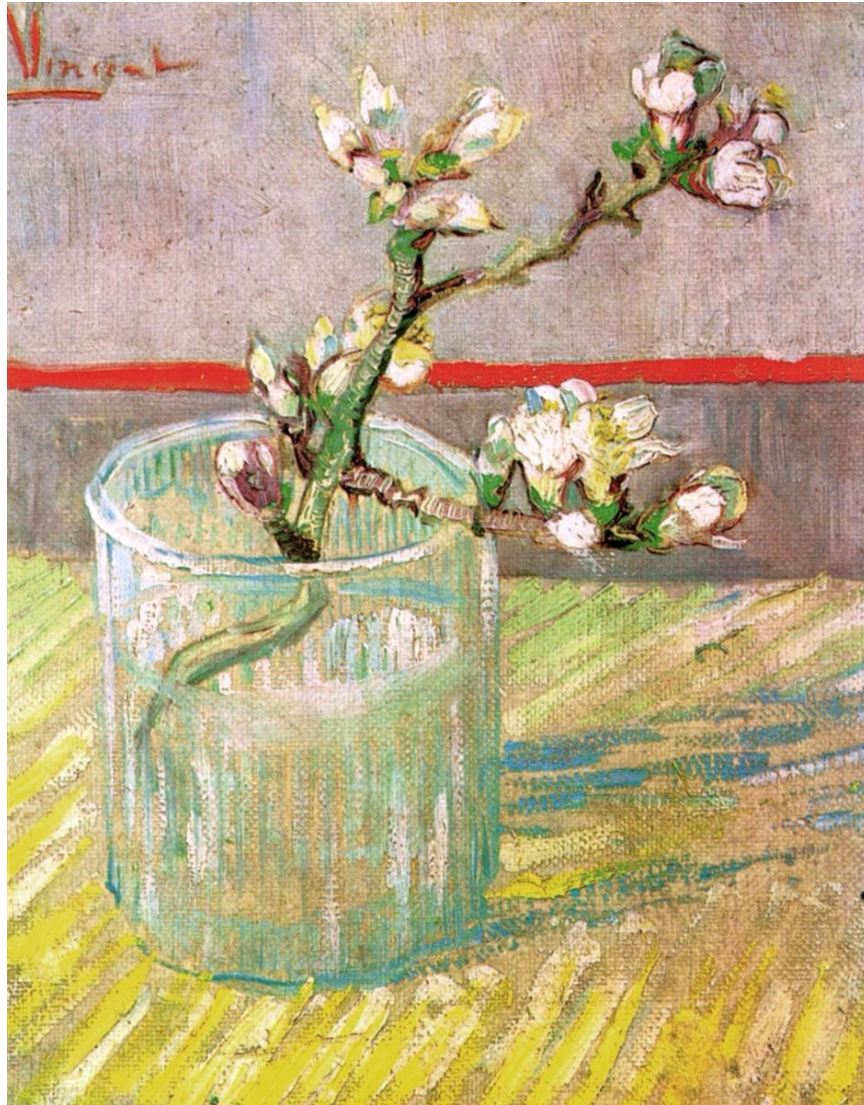


December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent



Blossoming Almond Branch in a Glass by Vincent van Gogh, from wikiart.org

To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

(if you are asked for a password, it is: 890967). **To dial in by phone** call 1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter **839 2872 7469#**. Next, you will be prompted to enter your participant ID or to push #; **simply push # again.**

Music will be displayed on the screen during the service.

Prelude

Welcome

Introit: “Til Maren (to Maren)” by Jeff Stone

Gathering Words: from *Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymn 116: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Almén Family

Sung Response: “Prepare the Way of Our God” by Taizé

Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14–16; I Thessalonians 3:9–13

Time with Children

Sermon: Sandy Johnson (*During the sermon, the congregation will join in singing verses of hymn 435, “Each Winter as the Year Grows Older.”*)

Prayers of the People

Please share your prayer requests in the chat and we will pray with you.

Lord’s Prayer

A commonly used form is printed below. You are welcome to use the version most 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 for ever. Amen.

Offering

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. December's special offering is shared between the Mission at San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala and the UCC Christmas fund. Give electronically at our website: www.firstchurchmn.org; click on the "Support Us" link. You can also give by texting 612-255-4109: "\$ (amount) Special" (for the monthly offering) or "\$ (amount) General Fund. If you give by check, please make it out to First Church with "Christmas" in the memo line.

Offertory: "Modal Melody" by Jeff Stone

Offertory Response: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines"

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Communion Prayer

Retelling the story

Sharing of the bread and cup

Announcements

Hymn: "The Bells of Norwich"

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Valet: Paul Snyder

Preacher and Worship Leader: Sandy Johnson

Reader: Kim Cooper

Usher: Kris Felbeck

Special Music: Carolyn Bernemann, flute; Ann Sather, violin; Tim Perry, cello; Jeff Stone, guitar

Flowers: Cynthia Hendricks in memory of her mother, Wilda Denton-Hendricks, loved and missed for 35 years

Tech Support: Cynthia Hendricks, Greg Hubinger

Coffee Hour: Kim, Rob, and Arcadia Cooper

Coming up this week

Sunday, Dec. 1

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Election Support Group (hybrid)

Monday, December 2

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, December 3

Noon: Bible Study (hybrid)

Wednesday, December 4

10a: Crafting Group

7p: Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, Dec. 8

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Congregational Meeting (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Family Gathering

12:30p: Hospitality & Engagement Team (Zoom)

Staff Note. Jane McBride is on vacation until Dec. 2. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Doug Donley, pastor at University Baptist Church, at 763-242-6553.

Post-election Election Support Group Meeting today. Join us in the parlor during 2nd Hour today to discuss this month's topic: The election is over, but our country is not. What are we called to do next? If you cannot attend this meeting, but you have ideas about what this group might do next, please contact Sarah Almén (s_almen@hotmail.com or 512-809-9788).

Call to Annual meeting. On Dec. 8 after worship we will meet to approve the 2025 budget, receive the annual report, elect board members and officers, share an update about our HVAC (heating/ cooling) project and an anticipated capital campaign, and express our gratitude for those who have served as officers and board members. All are invited to attend, but we ask that only members participate in voting. Materials for the meeting were sent out this week. Paper copies will be available next Sunday in the sanctuary.

The Advent Devotional is here! In it you'll find personal reflections, original and shared poetry, photographs, even original musical compositions, all shared by members of the congregation and inspired by our Advent theme of "All shall be well." To save paper, we encourage you to use the online version of the devotional. In addition, the photographs and printed music are clearer and more readable online, and you can zoom in to enlarge the page as needed. Thank you to all the contributors for your thoughtful, funny, touching, and inspiring offerings. It was truly a collaborative endeavor!

Toy Drive Dec. 15, 1–3p. We are currently collecting toys, books, art supplies, and blankets for our immigrant neighbors. We also could use bags for kids to carry their toys home, especially those that are a bit bigger than a standard grocery bag. Please bring items to the basement kitchen by Dec. 1. The kitchen folks will accept blankets all winter long. If you want to help organize toys or assist with the giveaway let Mercedes know. 612-756-3114 or tumah010@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for these Advent activities!

- Dec. 15 after worship: Advent Marketplace. Vendors will offer a variety of items and will be donating a portion of their proceeds to a cause of their choice. Be sure to bring cash or checks! If you would like to be a vendor (or if you would like more information about the marketplace) contact Xan Laurence: xanlaurence@comcast.net.
- Dec. 16, 7p: Longest Night service. This contemplative service includes poetry and special music/
- Dec. 22, Lessons & Carols in worship; all ages Cookies and Caroling afterwards!
- Dec. 24: Cookies/cocoa fellowship at 4p; Candlelight Christmas Eve service, 5p.

Christmas Eve cookies/cocoa hour. Linda Lincoln is organizing again this year. She is looking for donations of easily handled treats (that do not need utensils). Please bring your donations to church on Dec. 22, or drop them off at her house earlier if need be (hellolindalincoln@gmail.com). We are also looking for people to clean up If you can help, please let Jane know.