Community United Church of Christ
2650 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder CO 80305
303-499-9119, www.cuccboulder.org, @cuccboulder
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A Peace with Justice Church
November 27th, 2022 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE Performed by Alaina de Bellevue

WELCOME and GATHERING WORDS Rev. Cal Kemper, Worship Leader

MUSICAL MEDITATION *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, arr. E. Browne, Performed by the CUCC Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15)

One: I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!"
All: We come today with eager expectation.
Our feet are standing within God's gates.
One: Come, let us go up to the mountain
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.
All: We come today with holy expectation.
Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.
One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.
All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

OPENING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, verses 2,3, and 5, NCH #116

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION Written by Rev. Mia M. McClain

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,
God of the hope that the present has brought us, We call on you in this hour of worship.
We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us—
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace, The Giver of joy, the Giver love. Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you. Amen.

ADVENT SONG *Star Child*, TFWS #2095, verse 1

LIGHTING The ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.
Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.
Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.
People: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Thanks We Give* by Dale Wood, Performed by the CUCC Choir

STORY FOR ALL AGES

CELEBRATING OUR KIDS AND YOUTH *We Are Marching in the Light of God*, NCH #526

READINGS Matthew 24:36-44 and an Excerpt from "Blessing for Waking," by Jan Richardson

SERMON Keep Awake! Rev. Karen Howe

COMMUNAL SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Jackie Hibbard

WORLD PEACE PRAYER *Adapted from the Upanishads*

Oh God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Peace, peace, peace. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *In the Bleak Midwinter*, NCH #128 verse 4

What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what I can I offer: all my heart.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Your kin-dom come, your 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG *Keep Awake, Be Always Ready*, NCH #112

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG *God Be With You*, NCH #809