

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

555 Bedford Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591
914-631-2069
www.ucph.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday– Friday

The Mission of Union Church:

.... To provide a home where all are welcome
to worship God,
to learn and grow as Christians, and
to share our love, friendship and support
with all those whose lives we touch.

Staff

Lindley DeGarmo, *Interim Pastor*

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Clerk of the Congregation

David Bartholomew

282-3631

Board of Deacons

Sharon Dorzbacher, *President* – 769-4374

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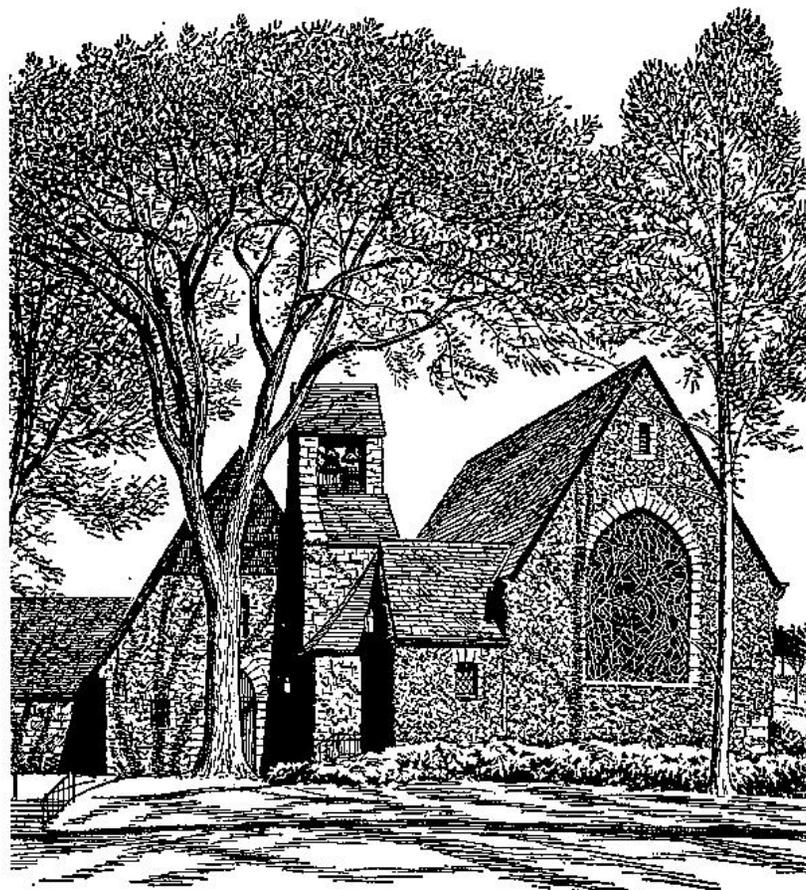
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.



Union Church of Pocantico Hills

The Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo—*Interim Pastor*

Richard Coffey—*Organist and Music Director*

Carol Erdman—*Deacon*

Sarah Finlayson—*Videographer*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. Everyone is invited to remain seated for the organ postlude, a final offering of praise.

*Words spoken or sung by the congregation are noted in **bold** type.*

Please note that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that masks be worn indoors by all person, regardless of vaccination status, particularly when singing.

** Please stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

Gathering Music: Improvisation on Service Music Themes

The Striking of the Hour

Prelude for Organ Alec Wyton (1921-2007)
Ostinato on *Veni Emmanuel*
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Introit Words 12th century Latin Advent hymn
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Setting: Gregorian Chant

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Call to Worship

O Lord, we lift our souls to you:
O God, in you we put our trust.
Make your ways known to us;
lead us in your truth.
Good and upright are you, O Lord.
**All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness
for those who keep your covenant.**

* Hymn 2
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hyfrydol

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWSHIP HOUR—All are invited for coffee, tea and conversation in the parish hall following the service. Fellowship time is hosted today by the Deacons.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION—Please help decorate Union Church's Christmas tree in the parish hall during Fellowship Hour.

HOSTS ARE NEEDED for fellowship hours in the weeks ahead. Please sign up in the parish hall if you can help.

PRAYER REQUESTS—Rosalyn DeHoff, Mary T. Johnson, Yvette Lin, Barbara Smith, Emma Thaler and Byron Weaver .

THANKSGIVING OFFERING—Union Church is receiving donations during November in support of Feeding Westchester. Please make checks payable to Union Church, with the notation "Feeding Westchester" in the memo line.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN—Pledge cards to record your estimate of giving for 2022 are available from the ushers. Please return your pledge card today to facilitate budgeting.

SANTA GIFTS—Help bring Christmas joy to a local child through the Westchester Grandparents' Coalition. Pick up a gift request in the parish hall.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS—Copies of a devotional guide for Advent, *A Surprising God*, by Thomas G. Long and Donyelle C. McCray, are available for the taking in the parish hall.

HEARING ASSISTANCE—The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.

CHOIR—Membership in the Union Church Choir is open to all members and friends who enjoy singing. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. For more information, please speak with Richard Coffey.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY meets at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom [<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83379997803>]. Review and discuss the Scripture readings for next Sunday with Dr. DeGarmo.

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Recitative and Aria from *Messiah*

Words: Isaiah 40:1-4

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Adam Goldstein, tenor

*Comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and cry unto her
that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God*

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.*

Second Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you

may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Sermon

"The Work of Waiting"

Dr. DeGarmo

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

**The world says, "All is lost."
God says, "All is loved."
The darkness says, "The light is dying."
The light says, "The fire is catching."
Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."
Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."
As we light our first Advent candle,
we pray for holy hope of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

* Hymn 48

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Es ist ein' Ros'

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

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

Invitation to the Offering

Access online giving by texting "UCPH" to 77977 on your smartphone and following the link that will appear.