

November 30, 2025



federated

live your faith

First Sunday of Advent
Pastor Vicki McGaw

Gathered at Federated Church: 76 Bell Street
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Also streaming live at [YouTube.com/TheFederatedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/TheFederatedChurch)

Chimes indicate the service is starting, and silence is appreciated to prepare for worship.

Prelude *People, Look East* (W. Wold) Marcia Snavelly, organ

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Vicki McGaw

Introit *Prepare the Royal Highway* (Ron Mallory) Federated Bell Choir

* **Call to Worship** Peggie Jo Shinagawa

One: When Zechariah entered the temple, he expected the ordinary – a prayer, a duty, another day of waiting. But God met him there with something unexpected: an angel, a promise, a spark of hope. Suddenly, what seemed impossible became a doorway for God's new beginning.

All: We come today longing for that same hope – hope that surprises us in the middle of our waiting, hope that reminds us God has not forgotten.

One: We come to worship the God who still speaks in the silence, who still answers prayer, and who still brings hope to weary hearts.

All: We come to trust again in God's promise that even when we cannot see the way forward, God is at work preparing something new. Light is coming, hope is being born.

Advent Candle Lighting John and Lyndsey Pollack,
Christopher Dougherty and Michael Hogue

* **Opening Hymn** *Come, O Long-expected Jesus* No. 125

Prayer of Confession Pastor McGaw

One: Emmanuel, God with us, you have created us, know our very hearts, and love us despite our failings, yet we admit that our faith in you often wavers.

All: We find ourselves captive to emotions and lusts which stun us, but doubt you can save us. We prefer the shadowy streets of the world, rather than walking in your light.

One: We long for your coming to change the world, yet are unwilling to change our own hearts, choosing instead to reduce our preparations for your arrival to reckless expense and trivialities. You send prophets and angels to share your message of peace and justice, yet we refuse to heed their call to nourish your blessings within us.

All: Forgive us, Faithful One. May the light of Christ show us your way; may the love of Christ overflow from our lives to others; may the life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people.

* **Words of Assurance**

Pastor McGaw

One: Do you feel it? God's tender mercy rests on you, heals you, transforms you.
Do you see it? God's light breaks into our lives and shows us the way.

All: Renewed and made whole, we see the path God has prepared for us – the way of hope, the way of peace, the way of grace, the way of service. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Message for the Young at Heart

Pastor McGaw

* **Passing of Christ's Peace**

(Children through grade 8 are dismissed to Sunday School)

* **Praise Response**

Surely the Presence of the Lord

No. 263

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Dramatic Reading

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

adapted from The Voice translation

Special Music

Blest Be the God of Israel

Gary Dole

Sermon

Pastor McGaw

Hymn of Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

No. 119



This Sanctuary is equipped with a **Hearing Loop system** that works with all **Telecoil-equipped hearing aids** to amplify sound with excellent clarity.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Fellowship of Prayer		Peggie Jo Shinagawa
Invitation to Generosity		Pastor McGaw
Anthem	<i>Advent Fantasy</i> (Judy Philips)	Federated Bell Choir
* Doxology		tune: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
	Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God, all Spirit messengers below. Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.	
* Prayer of Dedication		Pastor McGaw
* Closing Hymn	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	No. 150
* Commissioning and Benediction		Pastor McGaw
Postlude	<i>Prepare the Royal Highway</i> (IP. Manz)	Marcia Snavelly, organ

~ *Departing to Service* ~

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 7th, 10 AM
Second Sunday of Advent
Pastor Vicki McGaw preaches