

**First Church**  
Middletown



**UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST



Gathering for worship on November 27, 2022 at 10:00  
a.m.

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WE ARE A MASK POSITIVE COMMUNITY  
ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE SHARED FROM THE LECTERN  
ONLY.



SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 24:36-44*

*“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>8</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.*

ANTHEM

*Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep*

Gordon Young  
The First Church Choir

SERMON

*When??*

The Rev. Dr. Virginia H. Child

\*HYMN NCH 101 *Comfort, Comfort O My People* PSALM 42

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*Riu, Riu, Chiu*

Spanish- arr. Linda Spevaek-Avery

The Treble Choir

**\*THE DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Eternal God,  
as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign,  
use these gifts and the gifts of our lives  
to bring justice to those who are oppressed,  
to set free those who are in prison,  
to lift up those who are bowed down,  
and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*HYMN NCH 401      *O God in Whom All Life Begins*      NOEL

\*BLESSING

\*RESPONSE

**Go out into the world in peace  
Have courage  
Hold on to what is good  
Return no one evil for evil  
Strengthen the faint-hearted  
Support the weak  
Help the suffering  
Honor all persons**



**Love and serve the Lord  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!**

POSTLUDE      *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*      Paul Manz

Today's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Virginia H. Child, Interim Pastor; Shari Lucas,  
Minister of Music

Today's worship materials were adapted from Call to Worship  
56.1 (PCUSA) and "A Simple Advent Wreath Ceremony" by  
Maren Tirabassi <[giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com](http://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com)>

Our Deacons, led by Bill Foster, have assembled a diverse  
collection of Nativity Scenes. We're using them, among other  
ways, as bulletin covers throughout Advent.