



A  
thrill  
of  
hope

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

***Ushers and Greeters***  
Senior Fellowship Club

***Worship Leader***  
Gary Harrington

***Liturgists***  
Various congregants

***Acolytes***  
Justin Dermott, Gwen Cappy

***Flowers***

***Nursery Volunteer***  
Philip Zollweg

***Fellowship***  
Hanging of the Greens CEM Soup

***Attendance***  
November 20: 64

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of November 27**

**SUNDAY – November 27**  
10:30 am – Worship

**MONDAY – November 28**  
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

**TUESDAY – November 29**  
2:00 pm – Bridge Group  
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – November 30**  
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal  
7:30 pm – Cantata rehearsal

**THURSDAY – December 1**  
Bible Study – 11:30

**FRIDAY – December 2**  
Office Closed

**SUNDAY – December 4**  
8:30 am – Prayer Service  
9:15 am – The Well  
9:30 am – Sunday School  
10:30 am – Worship  
*Holy Communion*  
*Candidating Sunday*  
11:30 am – Church meeting  
(after worship)  
2:00 pm – Brewster House  
3:00 – Ecclesiastical Counsel  
for Rachel Ditch  
7:00 – Youth Group

## Service of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

10:30 AM

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*Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac*

"Advent is a winter training camp  
for those who desire peace."

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\*those who are able, please stand.

### GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Once He Came in Blessing*

Manz

#### CHIMES

### THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the  
King?

**All: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the  
eternal Christ?

**All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever  
living, ever green.**

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our  
Savior?

**All: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

**All: By hearing again the words of the scriptures, foretelling the saving work of God.**

One: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

**\*HYMN # 125** (vss. 1 & 2) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

### **THE MEANING OF THE “GREENING”**

*Today our church will put on its Christmas apparel: the Christmas tree stands in the chancel; candles will soon decorate the window sills; greens and poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary. We realize that although it is not yet Christmas, we need to prepare our hearts and homes to receive the Christ child.*

**\*HYMN # 142** (vss. 1 & 2)

*People Look East*

### **THE SYMBOLS OF GARLAND AND WREATHS**

*As we decorate our homes and places of worship, the evergreens symbolize God’s eternal and everlasting love for us, even after death. The wreath, round with no beginning and no end, symbolized the victory and glory of the fulfillment of scripture in the coming of Christ.*

**\*HYMN # 142** (vs. 3)

*People Look East*

## THE SYMBOL OF LIGHT

*Advent is a time of expectation and this is symbolized not only by the four-week period of preparation, but also by the lighting of an Advent Candle on each Sunday of the season. The flames of each new candle remind the worshiper that something is happening, but something more is still to come. The Advent season will not be complete until all four candles are lighted – with the central Christ candle also burning brightly on Christmas Eve.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel

John 1:6-14

NT pg. 91

### The Lighting the Advent Candle – “Hope”

**One:** Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus. (*first candle lit.*) We light the candle of Hope for all God’s people struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.

**All:** **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

**One:** A candle burns, the first marker of our Advent journey. As we set out on our journey to Christmas, may we travel hopefully.

**All:** **As we set out, God of journeys, travel with us.**

**One:** This candle burns as the sign of our hope. God of hope, come to us again this Advent.

**All:** **May your hope live within us, burning as a light in our lives. Amen.**

**\*HYMN # 132 (vs. 1)**

*When God is a Child*

**\*PRAYER OF HOPE** (*let us pray together...* )

**O God, we thank you for the hope that is in our hearts because Christ has revealed your love to us. Fill us with the joy and peace of believing. May the power of your Holy Spirit bless this day and the coming weeks of preparation, so that we may be ready to receive Christ in our hearts and homes anew, serving him in all that we say and do. Amen.**

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE**

*Glory to God*

Capo 3: ( Bm ) (Em) (A) (D)  
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

The musical notation is written on two staves in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, with an asterisk above the first measure. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, with asterisks above the first and third measures. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!' and 'Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*\*May be sung as a canon.*

(MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979, Music ©1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-725159.)

## **THE SYMBOL OF HOLLY AND IVY**

*Though steeped in legends and superstition, holly and ivy maintain a quality of life over death which is fitting and proper for the birth of one who offers each of us life beyond death – Christ the Lord.*

## HYMN

*The Holly and the Ivy*

1. The holly and the ivy,  
Now both are full well grown.  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.

### ***Chorus***

Oh, the rising of the sun,  
The running of the deer.  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the quire.

2. The holly bears a blossom  
As white as lily flower;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To be our sweet Savior. ***Chorus***

3. The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood;  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good. ***Chorus***

## THE SYMBOL OF POINSETTIAS

*Today the Poinsettia is the most popular of Christmas plants, for even without the legend, Christians see the flaming star of its red bracts the star of Bethlehem.*

**MUSIC** – *O Christmas Tree*

## THE SYMBOL OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*We put up evergreen trees in our homes and churches to remind ourselves that Christ is ever present and that he is the “Tree of Life.” We put lights on the tree to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the “Light of the World.”*

## THE SYMBOL OF THE CRÈCHE

*Whenever we see a Nativity we find ourselves with Mary and Joseph; with the Shepherds, and with the Wise Men; bowing before the manger, overwhelmed by God's expression of love in coming to us.*

\*HYMN # 147 (vs. 1)

*Away in a Manger*

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel

Luke 2:6-7

NT pg. 58

\*HYMN # 147 (vs. 2)

*Away in a Manger*

### PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

**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.**

### GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

#### OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*The King Shall Come*

Ore



# \*ADVENT DOXOLGY

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Em G C D7 G D G C G  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## \*Prayer of Dedication (*let us pray together . . .*)

**In this season of waiting and lighting candles, loving God, we offer these gifts of money, of creation, of wondering, and we offer ourselves as bearers of the light of your hope in the world. Amen.**

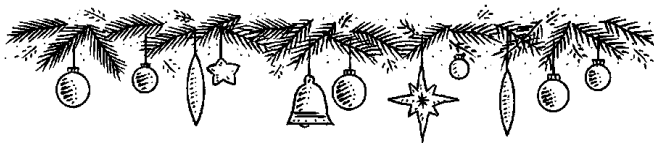
## GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

\*HYMN # 119 (vss. 1 & 4) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## \*BENEDICTION

## CHIMES

POSTLUDE *Saviour of the Nations, Come* Manz



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

10:30 AM – Worship

Holy Communion will be celebrated,  
we will light the Advent Candle of Peace.

The service will be lead by the HCC pastoral candidate.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

10:30 AM – Worship

Our time will be filled with wiggles, giggles and enthusiasm as  
we hear anew the Christmas story through our children.

We will light the Advent Candle of Joy.

Plan to stay after for a soup and bread lunch.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

10:30 AM – Worship

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light the Advent candle of  
Love and our Choir will present "Bethlehem's Child Christmas  
Cantata by Victor Johnson and Lloyd Larson.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

6:00 DISH TO PASS DINNER

Please bring a dish to pass, whether that be holiday hors  
d'oeuvres, a special holiday soup, or Grandpa's favorite cookies,  
and join us for a simple meal.

7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING WORSHIP

The Service of Lessons and Carols follows an ancient custom of  
placing music between scripture readings. Homer Brass will be  
playing and service concludes with candle lighting.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

10:30 AM – WORSHIP

Join us for a service of music and scripture that will also include  
musical gifts by members.

# NOTES AND NOTICES

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP

**On December 3rd at 4:30 pm** the **Pastor Search Committee** will host a **meet and greet with the candidate**. Simple hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served. Following at **5pm** there will be a congregation **dish-to-pass supper**. All are invited to attend. Childcare will be provided.

Come share a holiday meal with your friends at our annual **dish-to-pass supper** at **6pm Christmas Eve**, before the Worship Service at 7:30pm. Bring your favorite dish to share and a place setting for yourself.

## STEWARDSHIP

**Pledge cards** are still being accepted. Please stop by the Church Office if you need a new one. **Contribution Statements** from 1/1/16 - 9/25/16 are available in the Russell Fellowship Room. Please collect them.

## FUND RAISER

**Ending soon! Homer Nursery School** will be having a **fund raiser through Coffee Mania**. It will run from **Nov. 1- 29**. Order forms are on the bulletin board in the nursery school room. Checks can be made out to Homer Congregational Church and left with order forms in the envelope next to the signup forms. When ready for pickup, your order will be placed on the tables in the nursery school, labeled with your name, to be picked up after Sunday worship. For more information, please contact Lisa Clark at (607) 749-6753.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

The **Hospice Foundation of Cortland County's** annual **Light of my Life** event will be held on **Friday Dec. 2, 2016 at 6:30** on the Homer Green. Symbolic lights may be purchased for \$5, with the name(s) of your loved one(s) posted on the Hospice boards, near the tree. Forms may be obtained in the Russell Fellowship room, from Gail Van Patten, Bill Hopkins, or at the Hospice office on Kennedy Pky. in Cortland. The night will include live holiday music and refreshments, along with the arrival of Santa. For more details, please see the post on the bulletin board in the Russell Fellowship Room.

Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister  
Lisa Clark, Homer Nursery School Director  
Rachel Ditch, Director of Christian Education  
Joseph Ford, Director of Music  
James N. Shultes, Organist  
Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells  
Gary Harrington, Sexton  
Sheila Shea, Church Administrator

Church Office Hours:

Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Fridays.

Pastor Kathleen's time in the office varies each week, but she is available to visit those with special needs or to meet for any other reason. Please feel free to contact her via email: [pastor@homercc.org](mailto:pastor@homercc.org) or via her cell phone: (315) 380-0744

HCC website - [homercc.com](http://homercc.com)

Follow Homer Congregational Church on facebook!

Monthly newsletters can be found at each entrance to the sanctuary and online at [homercc.com/resources](http://homercc.com/resources).

Our digital calendar can be viewed at [homercc.com/calendar](http://homercc.com/calendar).

Contact the office to receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*.

Welcome - We are glad that you have chosen to join us for worship this morning. If you would like additional information about HCC please speak to the pastor or worship leader and plan to join us for refreshments and community time after the service.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and "Busy Bags" are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Nursery care is available.

Prayer request sheets are placed at each entrance. Prayers will be offered later in today's service.

Accessibility - Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to any in need. Contact one of the ushers for help.

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins at our website: <http://www.homercc.com/resources>. Share with a friend.