

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Jesus is the Light of Joy"



December 19, 2021



Arlington Community Church United Church of Christ

...called to be stewards of creation

& to build a just society

based upon the inspiration of our faith

Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau, *Bridge Pastor*

52 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707

(510) 526-9146

www.arlingtoncommunitychurcucc.org

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



“To me, it’s that incredible sense of belonging and peace within your own self and heart that really is joy.”

~ Goldie Hawn

Please turn off cell phones completely and/or disable WiFi.

Masks are once again required for all in attendance.

Cell phones and Wifi enabled devices can interfere with our sound system & Live-Stream Worship

****Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand if able.***

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

The ACC Ensemble

“A Child Is Born”

By Thad Jones

Welcome

Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Elena Caruthers, Ruth Robinson, & Linda Young

One: Today is the fourth week of Advent!

We will light four candles
to sparkle with joy.

For God lights constellations
and the tips of angel wings
light years far away,
and light years as near as breath.

We light (and help to blow out)
ninety-five candles on a birthday cake,
the high circle of a Ferris wheel,
the smile of a pumpkin,
marshmallow of a ‘smore,
branches of a Christmas tree,
and the luminarias that say –
this is a church that welcomes all,
every age, race, education,
ability, orientation, ethnic origin,
gender identity, job status,
old friend or stranger becoming new one,
those who claim their history
and their identity,
others who close their lips to listen
and feel the joy in their hearts.

Continued on the next page →

Two: Rejoice in Christ always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to

everyone. Christ is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

One: We raise and light four candles,
and know we cannot do it by ourselves
for each of us have only two hands.

*Two: For ordinary, available, gentle, brave,
and with wide-open doors,
is the hope, peace, love, and joy of Advent.*

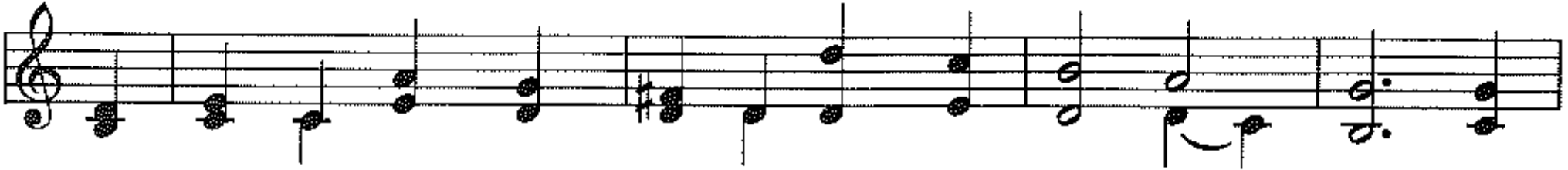
**All: I will light Candles this Advent,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles that will burn all year long. (Howard Thurman)**

* Gathering Hymn

"Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing"



1 Re - joice, give thanks and sing; your Sov - ereign God a - dore!
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 Christ Je - sus can - not fail to rule both earth and heaven;
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,



For Christ has robbed death's sting and tri - umphs ev - er - more. Lift
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power a - bove. Lift
The keys of death and hell are to the Sav - ior given. Lift
And take the faith - ful up to their e - ter - nal home. We



up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
soon shall hear a heaven - ly voice a - bove the trum - pet's sound, "Re - joice!"

Call to Awareness

Naming our Wounds (*Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau*)

**All: O God, we feel invisible, ineffective,
and too small to make a difference.
As the light around us grows dim,
When there is more darkness than light.
When this season expects false notions of happiness and
joy,
When despair takes root, when fears won't let go,
when our days are tossed with chaos
when our burdens are heavy, and sadness engulfs us.
When we throw up our hands in frustration
Into this time, you enter our days inviting us to be God-
Bearers
Bearing the Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy of Jesus Christ**

Assurance of Grace (Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau)

One: Hear this good news!

Through the mystery of the birth, life, cross and resurrection

we have been restored and revived,

renewed and made whole

to give the Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy

All: Amen.

* Passing the JOY!

While keeping an appropriate distance, you are invited to stand and offer a sign of God's peace to your neighbors.

* Sung Response

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel" x 2

Unison

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

his name is called Em-man - u - el.

God with us, re-vealed in us,

his name is called Em-man - u - el. *D.C. (final)*

Gratitude and Stillness

Naming Our Gratitude

*We name into our space those things
for which we are grateful.*

Silence for Meditation & Bell

*In our busy, noisy world, we offer a few minutes of silence
to meditate and let your soul arrive in this place of worship.*

Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice

Scripture

Congregation Responsive Reading

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

Common English Bible

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that God would fulfill the promises that were made to her."

Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

Continued on the next page →

God has looked with favor on the low status of this servant of God.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is the name of God,
who shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

**God has shown strength
and has scattered the proud with arrogant thoughts in their hearts.**

God has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

**God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.**

God has come to the aid of the servant of God, Israel,
remembering the promise of mercy,

**just as God promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."**

Special Music

The ACC Ensemble

"Canzone d'Zampognari "

15th Century. Traditional tune from Abruzzi, Italy

Interpreting for Our Time

Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

"Jesus is the Light of Joy"

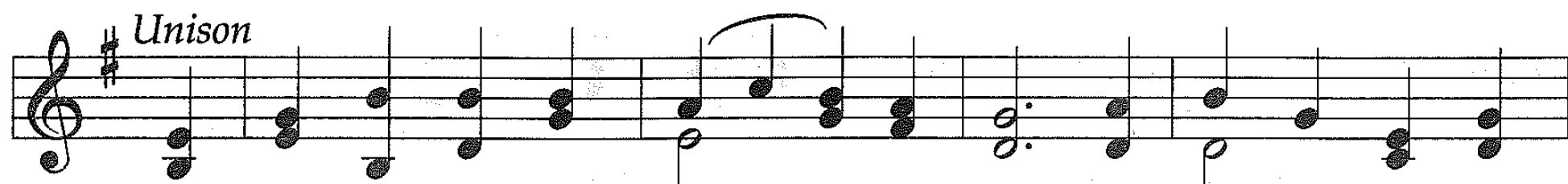
Moment for Silent Reflection

Praying for Our World



Call to Prayer

“Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1 & 2)



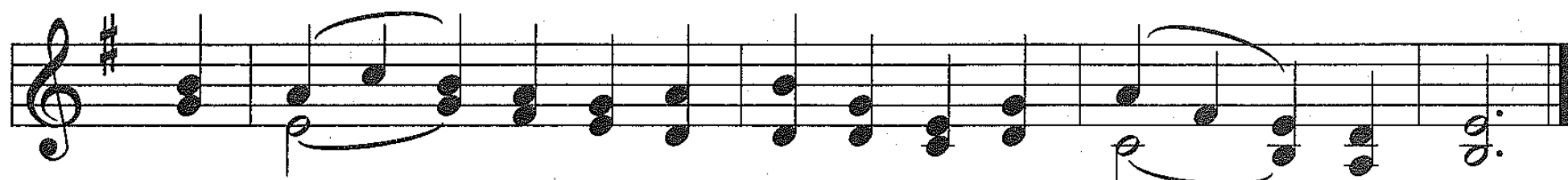
1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.
and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!
fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Celebrations and Concerns

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*At the end of the Morning Prayer,
please join in with words that are comfortable to you.*

**Our [Father/Mother/Creator] who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

Your Kingdom 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the Kingdom, the power,

and the glory forever.

Amen.

Response

"Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 3 & 4)

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts

Invitation to Give

Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

Offertory

The ACC Ensemble

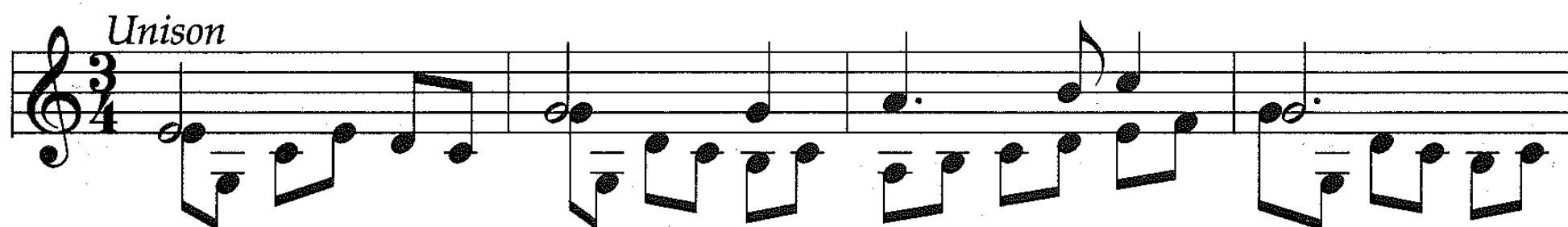
"The Huron Carol"

Traditional indigenous Wendant tune, arranged by Brendt Edstrom

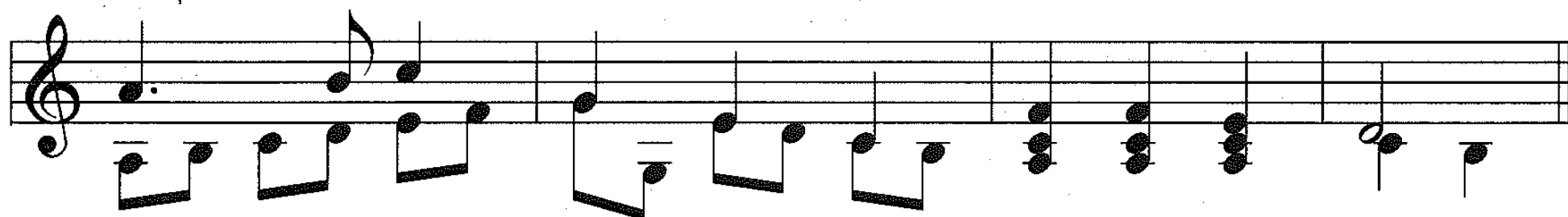
Please place your offering envelope in the plate at the back of the Sanctuary as you leave, or in the plate near the south door.

* Response

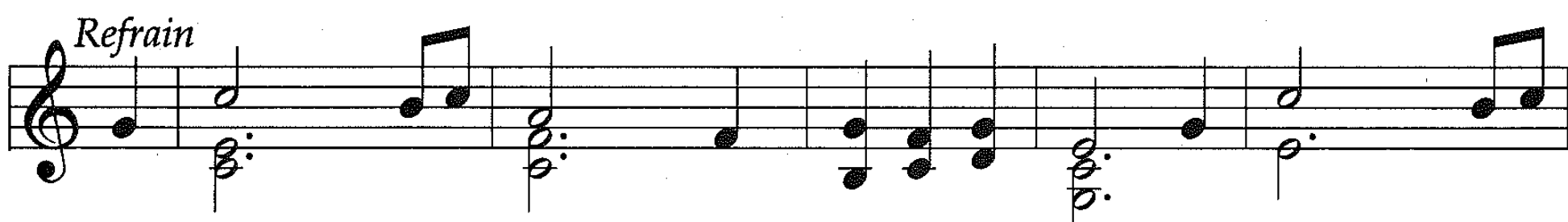
"When God is a Child"



1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,
3. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
4. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,



lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.
tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.



When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be



first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

*Prayer of Dedication (*Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau*)

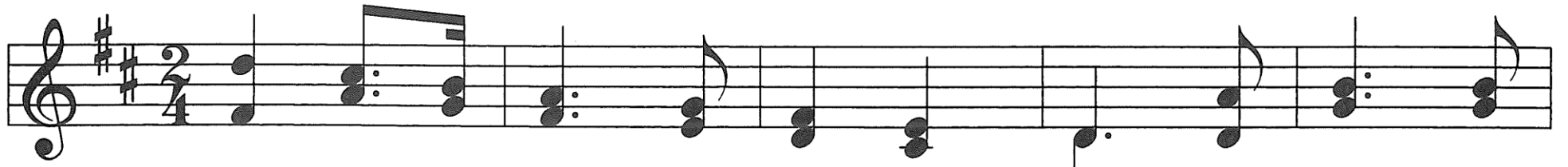
All: Emmanuel: God with us, take these gifts and with us create a new world: Where we allow the "them" to become the "us"
The "those" to become the "we." The "really?" to become the "really us!" With Joy we are one body and always must be. Amen.

Moving Out to the World

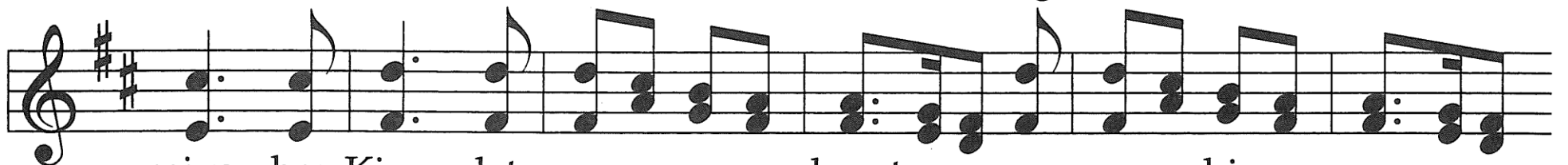
Announcements

*Closing Hymn

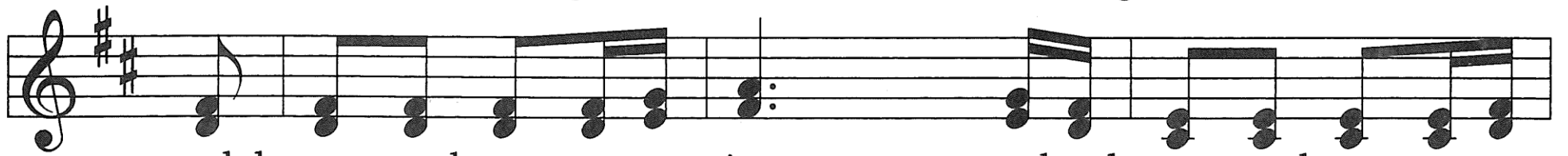
"Joy to the World"



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

* Words of Blessing

Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

Postlude

The ACC Ensemble

"Christmas Time Is Here"

By Vince Guaraldi

Worship Ends & Worship through Service Begins

Please join us for Coffee and Social Hour Following Worship!

Please **recycle** your used bulletin.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <u>Bridge Pastor:</u> | Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau |
| Office Hours: | Weds-Fri 10 am – 2 pm |
| Confidential e-mail: | barbareau433@yahoo.com |
| Confidential voicemail: | (510) 526-9146 ext. 2 |
| Cell: | (510) 646-2372 |
| <u>Office Administrator:</u> | Jacob Day |
| Office Hours: | Weds & Fri 12-5 or by appointment |
| Office & Rentals Voicemail: | (510) 526-9146 ext. 1 |
| E-mail: | acc.ucc.staff@gmail.com |
| Music Director: | Shanti Moorjani |
| Accompanist/Ensemble: | Tim K. Murphy |
| Live Audio/Video: | Sean Whitman |
| Greeters: | Tom Dean & Lisa Chilton |
| Advent Candle Lighters: | Elena Caruthers, Ruth Robinson, & Linda Young |
| Scripture Reader: | Congregation Responsive Reading |
| The ACC Ensemble: | Joe Pratt: <i>tenor & alto sax</i> Kelly Back: <i>guitar</i> Richard Mayers: <i>percussion</i> Tim K. Murphy: <i>piano</i> |
| Moderator: | Linda Young |
| Vice Moderator: | Faith Abel |
| Ministers: | All the Members |
| Communion Prep: | Deacons |

FIND ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH ONLINE AT:

www.arlingtoncommunitychurchucc.org

www.facebook.com/arlingtoncommunitychurchucc

Upcoming Events at Arlington Community Church!

In-Person & Live-Stream Worship: December 5, 12, 19, & 26 @ 10AM

We welcome all people to in-person or live-stream worship and prayer, and be with us on our journeys of faith formation; join us as we experience the Divine One through Creation, Creatures, and Creativity in our world and worship.

Checking In & Reaching Out with Barry Cammer: December 7, 14, 21, & 28 @ 11AM

You are invited to join Rev. Barry Cammer and others for an hour of checking in with each other, sharing stories of moving through the pandemic, reaching out to each other with words of support, encouragement, challenges, laughter, and surprises. We always end with prayers of gratitude and concerns. This is an open group. First timers are lovingly welcome.

Zoom Memoir Group: National Games Day December 20 @ 10AM

An entire day, actually an international celebration (at least in some countries), dedicated to the fun of playing games. What did you play as a kid or as a family then or now? Did you play games with other adults? Bridge anyone? I think the focus is not on sports games, but on the other types of games. Warm up for Games Day, which falls on December 20 every year. Video games, live games, card games, board games, mobile games, trivia games — everybody loves games! With good reason, too. Games are a fun way to bust some stress. I have fond memories of lazy summer afternoons as a kid playing Canasta for hours and hours. All I remember of that game is using at least 2 decks of cards, and that is it, folks. Let's see what comes up. Maybe we'll find something new to try that is different and interesting.

Join us for Advent & Christmas

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Arlington Community Church, UCC

52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA

Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau, Bridge Pastor

1st Sunday of Advent: November 28, 10 am*

Jesus is the Light of Hope

2nd Sunday of Advent: December 5, 10 am*

Jesus is the Light of Peace

3rd Sunday of Advent: December 12, 10 am*

Jesus is the Light of Love

4th Sunday of Advent: December 19, 10 am*

Jesus is the Light of Joy

Christmas Eve: December 24, 5 pm*

A Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

A Joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus

*Masks and proof of vaccination required.

For more info, visit

www.ArlingtonCommunityChurchUCC.org





Picture taken by Robert Stokstad

God calls **Arlington Community Church**
To be an Open and Affirming
Spiritual center, which welcomes people
Of all ages, races, mental and physical abilities,
Sexual orientations and gender identities
into our diverse **community**.



As a **Jubilee congregation**, we believe in
building an economy that serves, protects,
& promotes participation of the most vulnerable.



A Creation Justice Church
Where all individuals who feel called to be a "voice for
this planet" can be part of this mission, regardless of
religious affiliations.