


# Hope



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1212 First Avenue West, Spencer, Iowa 51301-3503  
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 FirstCongregationalChurchofSpencerIA

November 28, 2021

10:15 a.m.

## AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

10:15 a.m.

### FOR YOUR REFLECTION

*"The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross."*  
J.I. Packer

**Prelude** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"  
by Lyndell Leatherman

### GREETING

**LEADER:** The Lord be with you. (extending arms)  
**PEOPLE:** **And also with you.** (Congregation responds with extended arms.)

### CALL To Worship (from Isaiah 9)

**Leader:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light  
**People:** **those who dwelt in deep darkness, on them a light has shone.**  
**Leader:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given  
**People:** **And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
**All:**

**OPENING HYMN** "O Come All Ye Faithful" #100

**INVOCATION:** Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.

**OUR CHURCH'S COVENANT:** (see screen)

**GLORIA PATRI** #558

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YOUNG DISCIPLES' MOMENT** Joseph Leggett

### PASTORAL PRAYER

**& LORD'S PRAYER** (using "debts" see screen)

**THE OFFERING** Ponder the gifts you will offer to God—your tithes, your time, your resources.

**DOXOLOGY** #563

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**MIDDLE HYMN** "While We Are Waiting Come" #216  
**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 11:1-11 pg. 529  
**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Romans 15:1-13 pg. 867  
**MEDITATION** "Our Hope is in the One who brings" David Lyons  
**CLOSING HYMN** "Soon and Very Soon" Joseph Leggett  
**BENEDICTION** (Romans 15:13)

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**CHORAL BLESSING** "God Be With You" #580  
**God be with you till we meet again  
 By his counsels guide, uphold you,  
 With his sheep securely fold you;  
 God be with you till we meet again. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** "Soon and Very Soon with Jordan's Stormy Banks" by Cindy Berry



You are invited to adorn the **Mitten Tree** scarves, mittens, hats, socks, coats, etc. Donations to Upper Des Moines Opportunity

UDMO Food Donations non perishable food and hygiene products needed. Barrels located in the narthex & Education Wing.



**Family Christmas Party & Youth Lock-in**  
**December 3-4**  
**7:00 pm—7:00 am**  
 RSVP to Joseph



Thanksgiving Offering  
 One Great Hour of Sharing

Adopt A Family/Senior  
 Select ornaments and **return gifts by December 5.** Tree is located in the back of the chur today.



**Greeter:** Shari Emmert & Barb Garnatz  
**Fellowship Hour:** Rod & Helen Castenson  
**Sight, Sound & Light:** Matt Bryant, Robbie Gerlock, Irie Leggett, Max Munter  
**Ushers:** Frank Edington, Bob Rose, John Zinn  
**Worship Assistant:** Sheryl Patten



find

"God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find him, though He is not far from any one of us."  
 Acts 17:27 (NIV)

*Proud to be a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and the Iowa-Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches.*



Ministers - All  
 Today's Pastor David Lyons  
 Director of Youth & Family Ministry- Joseph Leggett  
 Church Secretary - Michelle Tullberg  
 Organist / Accompanist - Elina Ozolins  
 Bell Choir Director - Jessica Jans  
 Building Managers - Jodie Marlow and Lori Haburn

**MISSION STATEMENT ~ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~ SPENCER, IOWA**

*The First Congregational Church of Spencer joyfully worships and praises God. Bound by our covenant, we strive to be the Body of Christ throughout the world by loving, helping and supporting our church family and others through fellowship, missions, and outreach. Our philosophy encourages all people to experience God's grace by freely thinking and building personal relationships with Christ to the glory of God.*

**Sermon Notes  
November 28, 2021**

**Sermon**

1. Our hope is in the One who brings (Isaiah 11:1-11)
  - a. Restoration of Justice. He will right every wrong (v. 3-5).
  - b. Restoration of Peace and innocence (v. 6-9).
  - c. Restoration of His people and what was lost (v. 10 – 11).
  
2. Therefore (Romans 15:1-13)
  - a. We are patient with those who fail (v. 1).
  - b. We seek to edify one another (v. 2, 3, and 5).
  - c. We grow in hope through time in His Word (v. 4).
  - d. We seek to glorify God through what and how we speak to one another as well as through corporate praise (v. 6).
  - e. We are infused with hope only through the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 12, 13).

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## Sunday Announcements November 28, 2021

†Please let us know your joys and concerns, if you would like something announced during worship please advise an usher when you come into the sanctuary or if you are live streaming go to the YouTube chat box and type in your prayer request and they will be announced in worship.

†Thanks to Bill Green and his generosity, we have a new sound board! We are using it for the first time today! We applaud you!!

†Bethany Church and FCC will be performing a joint Cantata. Bethany held it today during worship and FCC next Sunday, December 5 during worship. We invite you all to come to church to enjoy this wonderful addition to the start of the holiday season.

†Hanging of the Greens will be today after worship service. Anyone who would like to help decorate are welcome, a light lunch will be provided.

†Family Christmas Party & PF Youth Lock-in is set for Friday, December 3 beginning at 7:00 pm. After the party the PF Youth will stay for a fun and most likely sleepless night. Youth may be picked up by 7:00 am Saturday.

†Thanksgiving Offering—The Ministry of Missions has voted to donate the Thanksgiving Offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.

†Christmas Offering—The Ministry of Mission has chosen the Christmas Offering go to Atlas of Spencer. Atlas is a Christ-centered, non-profit, community organization existing to help those in our community who are hurting or are in need by providing a welcoming place of contact, by assessing needs, by providing resources to meet needs and develop life skills, by referring to other professional services as needed, by sharing Jesus as the way to life and lasting change and by providing a connection to a local church.

Some of the things they do are: mentor, study scripture, pray; guide people to other resources in the community, that may be able to better suit their needs; working relationships with all service agencies and many churches in the area to assist with coordination of services; assist with transportation to a variety of places, contingent upon volunteers; assist with parent/child supervised visits; assist with budgeting money; connected with Atlas Car Ministry; work with landlords and businesses in the community, to help people find shelter and employment.

Atlas works closely with local churches to select Christians who are willing to serve as mentors, to connect Christians with those who are hurting and in need, to equip, encourage and empower Christians to walk with others through life's situations, to provide the necessary support and resources to keep these relationships strong.

How does it all work? Atlas is supported by interested members who want to be a part of what God is doing to help those who have spiritual, emotional, physical and financial needs. Each contribution given to Atlas

helps strengthen those in need, so that one day the person or family can be strong enough to strengthen, encourage, and financially bless others.

†Adopt A Family/Senior—There are still plenty of names on the Adopt A Family/Senior tree. The tree has been moved to the back of the sanctuary today so that you may take an ornament on the way out of church. Be sure to write your name on the white ornament and place that in the basket. **All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 5**

† Mitten Tree—You are invited to adorn the Mitten Tree located in the Education wing of the church. Accepting donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, coats etc. All contributions will go to UDMO for distribution. This tree will remain up until after Christmas.

†The Family Christmas Party and PF Lock-in is set for next Friday, December 3 beginning at 7:00 pm. After the party the PF Youth will stay for a lock-in and will be ready to be picked up at 7:00 am Saturday morning.

†Mark your calendars for the Roast Beef Dinner and Jesus Birthday, December 19 after worship. This will be served in Fellowship Hall and to-go.

†Children's Christmas Program—The kids have been rehearsing and will be ready to entertain you on Sunday, December 19 during worship. We invite you all to come, this will be the highlight of the year! We so missed having a live performance last year. Thanks to Cara Gerlock for her wonderful skills writing and directing.

†Christmas Eve Worship—The Christmas Eve service will be held Friday, December 24 at 5:30.

†It is never too early to think about the Annual Report! Please send reports via email to the office as soon as you can, all reports must be turned in to the office **NO LATER THAN Tuesday, January 5**. The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 23, 2022 after worship. Reports will be available on January 16 for review.

†Joys & Concerns: Pray for the family of Bertha Besaw after her death on November 20. Pray for those that are dealing with health issues and loss: Jackie Ball, Kassie Flannagan, Karen Forbes, Bill Green, Tom Hinrichsen, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Paul Jepson, Barb Joenks, Kathy Joenks, Bev Pearson, John Phelps, Jack Schomaker, Mark Wedel, Mary Kay Zinn....

†We pray for our military personnel: Taylor Allen, Evan Ball, Brandon Black, Mark Ivey, Nathan Jones, Jared Leonard, Adam Norgaard, Daniel Peterson, Kathryn Polking, Patrick Sullivan, Nicholas Sundblad, and Matt Wilkerson.

†We pray for our nursing home residents and homebound: Lois Knight, Ina Faye Underwood, Nancy Lewis, Wanda Nelson, Bonnie Crosser, Jean Heinrichs, Frank Nelson, Carol Kettelkamp, Vi Reason, Lucy Steffen, Dean Saunders, Janet Swanson, and Doris Van Buren, Mary Kay Zinn.