

## November 29, 2020

\*\* (Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude

Greeting/Life of the Church

Rev. Andy Wagner

\*\* Call to Worship

L: Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.

The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

**P: We are here to listen for a word from God.**

**We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.**

L: Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears.

There is a place for you in the company of seekers.

**P: We thank God for our acceptance in the church.**

**We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.**

L: We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.

**P: We are glad God is doing great things among us.**

**We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH#203

Opening Prayer (unison)

**How good it is to gather where garments of sorrow and affliction are removed. Here, we are wrapped in the beauty of God's glory and welcomed to life at its fullest. Surely you restore us to our best, mighty God, and equip us for productive living. Make a difference within and among us today so we can work for a better tomorrow. Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Lauren Wickline and Simon Kjersten

Prayer Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 1,5,6) UMH#211

Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

Ministry of Music

"Cornerstone"

Ben & Jennifer Webster

\*\*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:5-14

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Sermon

"Discovering Hope With Zechariah"

Rev. Andy Wagner

\*\* Closing Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH#213

\*\* Sending Forth

\*\* Postlude



*Altar Flowers are given by Rick & Joyce Smith  
in celebration of their 51st Anniversary and Joyce's Birthday.*



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Monday 30	Cub Scouts	6:10 pm	Rm 15 A-B
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	Rm 15 C
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm	Rm 16 A-B
Tuesday 1	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	Rm 15 A, B, C, 16 A
	Ad Board Council	6:30 pm	FCC
Wednesday 2	<b>DEADLINE FOR 12/6/20 BULLETIN</b>		
	Trustees	6:30 pm	Rm 6
Thursday 3	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Rm 16 A-B
Friday 4	Xenia HS Winter Guard	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 5	Double I Dinner	6:00 pm	Rm 15 A & Kit
Sunday 6	Traditional Worship	9:00 am	Sanctuary
	Sunday School	10:00 am	Rm 6, 12, 15 C, 16 A-B Parlor, Library,
	Contemporary Worship	11:00 am	FCC

### Sunday School Studies

**Explorers** meet in Room 6, Leader Char Lee study of "Faithful-Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph by Adam Hamilton.

**Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook study of "Daniel - Spiritual Living in a Secular World" by Douglas Connelly.

**Open Doors** meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study "Yes, Lord I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses" by James Moore.

**Friends & Followers** meet in the Library, Leader Chad Mossing.

**Grades 6-12** will meet in Rm 16 A-B, Leader Joyce Smith.

**Preschool – Grade 5** Join the children in Rm 12 under the leadership of Karen Mossing, and Kylie Fleming for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

## From Uh-oh to Ah-ha! A Journey of Christmas Discovery



Week 1  
Discovering Hope  
with Zechariah



Rev. Andy Wagner

(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorandy@fcum.org](mailto:pastorandy@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

**November 29, 2020**

### Worship Team

Ushers

Rick Smith, Doug Wickline,  
Paul Pinkerton, Bill Turner

Liturgist

Elaine Hughes

Acolytes

Catherine Mossing & Morgan Fleming

Organist

Carol Stewart

# Gospel Lesson – Luke 1:5-14

## The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

### Announcements

**CONTEMPORARY SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED:** Interested in doing Special Music for our new Contemporary Services? Please see Pastor Ben before or after service on Sunday or contact him at 937-206-3793 or [PastorBenWebster@gmail.com](mailto:PastorBenWebster@gmail.com).

**TO EVERYONE AT FAITH COMMUNITY:** I want thank everyone who was involved with the wonderful gifts you gave me. It was so touching and came at the exact right time. I feel so blessed to work with such kind and generous souls. Sincere blessings, Crystal Hoskins

**IF YOU ARE OVER 70 AND HAVE AN IRA PLEASE READ THIS:** If you are over 70 and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) the IRS requires you to make an annual withdrawal that is based on a combination of your age and the value of your IRA at the end of the preceding year. This withdrawal, called a Required Minimum Distribution or RMD, is generally treated as Taxable Income. However, there is a provision in the law that allows you to have some or all of the RMD made directly to a qualifying charity such as Faith Community. The IRS calls this a Qualified Charitable Distribution and if you do this it is not taxable. Note that while the RMD was suspended in 2020 due to the virus, we have no reason to believe the suspension will be continued. Some at Faith Community are already using this provision, but if you are not you should consider it. Talk to your financial advisor or broker to get more details to see if it would work for you. If doing this results in tax savings, you should consider adding some or all of the savings to your pledge.



## Week 1 – The Candle of Hope

**Reader One:** If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be. Nothing. We need Advent!

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

**Reader One:** We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

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