

# Covenant Congregational Church

## First Sunday of Advent

Worship Gathering December 3, 2017 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Come Shepherds, Rise* arr. by Patricia A. Sanders  
*O Come All Ye Faithful* John F. Wade, Arr. by Arnold B. Sherman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Jason

INTROIT *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. by Michael Helman

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

It doesn't matter whether or not we have deep faith;

**whether or not we are cynical or despairing,**

hope-filled or hope-less:

**what matters to God is simply that we are here.**

Together, we are entering this time of Advent,

waiting in preparation for Christmas.

**Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again  
in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives  
that we need prepare for new life.**

We need to make the space in our lives

where love might be born,

**welcoming new life to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world.**

Together, let us practice being ready

in the faith that Christ will come.

\*SONG *Come, You People of the Promise* Hymn #130

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING *The Candle of Hope* Markell Family  
CHOIR ANTHEM *Light One Candle* Sleeth, arr. Sorenson

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

\*Doxology (to the tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*) Insert

\*Prayer of Dedication

*(Children K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are dismissed to Children's Church at this time)*

### THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Reading *Hosea 1:1-11*

Susan Plante

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**1** The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri, in the days of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah, and in the days of King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel.

**2** When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord." **3** So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

**4** And the Lord said to him, "Name him Jezreel; for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. **5** On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

**6** She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. **7** But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen."

**8** When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. **9** Then the Lord said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God."

**10** Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God." **11** The people of Judah and the people of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head; and they shall take possession of the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Response: The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *God's Rejected Love* Pastor Jason

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Communion

Choral Anthem *Christmas Communion Song*

Callaway

Advent Creed

**We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.  
The one who is full of patience,  
who is not afraid of silence,  
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.  
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,  
and who does not jostle for attention.  
We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,  
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,  
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,  
who frequently took time alone with His patient Father,  
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,  
who stood quietly before the noise of His accusers,  
whose silence overpowered their words,  
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,  
sometimes arriving with obvious power,  
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.  
We believe in one God  
who patiently waits for us,  
and who long for us to do the same.**

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A Prayer for the Elements

Sharing of the Bread & the Cup

+ *In the center of each bread tray is a small cup filled with gluten free bread* +  
Prayer of Sending

\*SONG                                    *O How Shall I Receive You*                                    Hymn #123

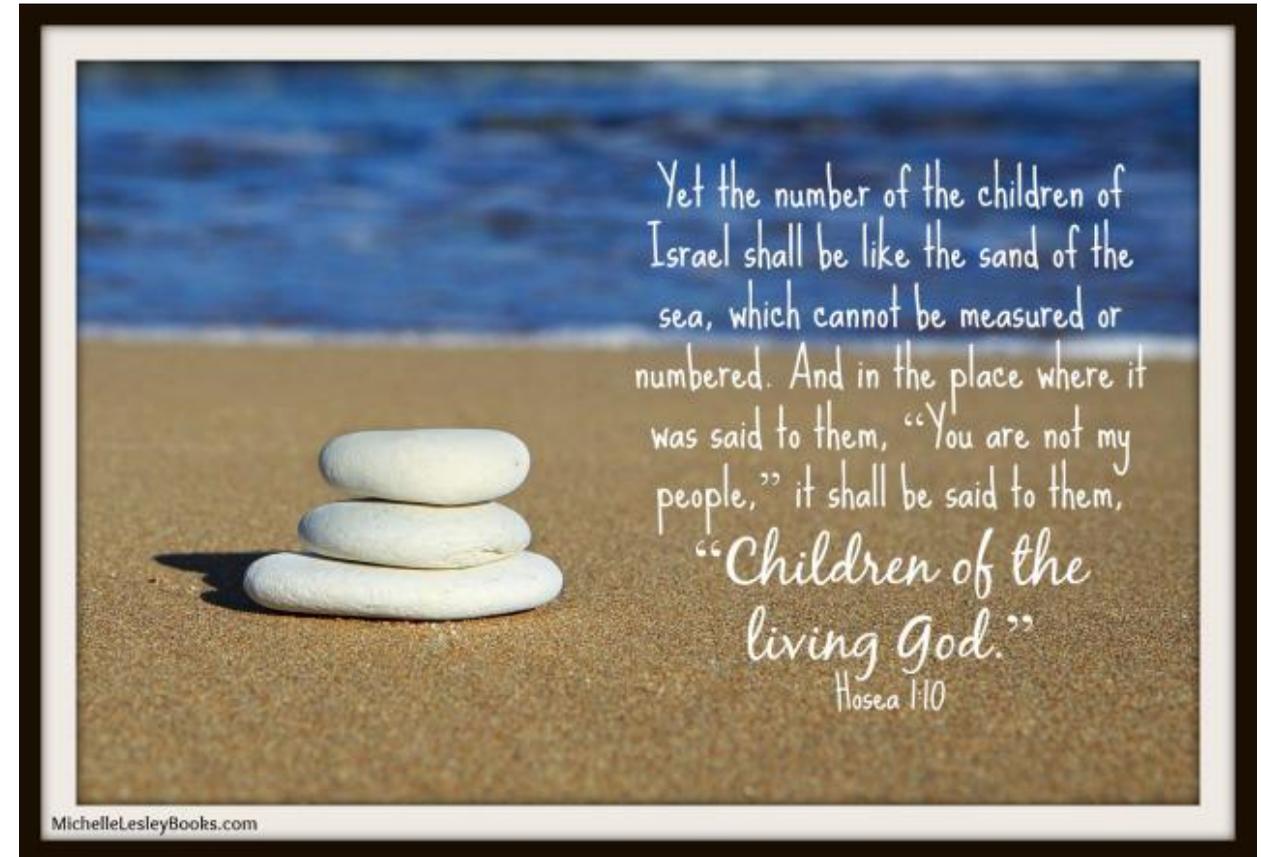
\*BENEDICTION & RESPONSE                    *Threefold Amen*                                    Danish

\*POSTLUDE                                    *Prepare the Way*                                    arr. Logan

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\*Please stand in praise to God, if able  
CCLI #982653

**Thank you for participating in our worship gathering!** We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. To go deeper in relationship with this church family, we invite join in on the fellowship and light refreshments after services today in the Fireside Room.



Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church  
204 Center Street, North Easton 02356 ☩ (508) 238-6423  
www.ecovchurch.org