Prelude	Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland ("Now Come, Savior of the World")			
Welcome				

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

The Eckard Family

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

J. S. Bach

- One: During the season of Advent, we watch and wait for the Christ's arrival. We remember that God has promised redemption to all who pursue the path of faith.
- All: This morning, we kindle the flame of peace to remind us to spread peace wherever we are in the world.

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

God of hope, Prince of Peace, you came into the world in human form as an infant called Emmanuel. Help us live as peacemakers that we may be called children of peace. God of hope, God of peace, come into each heart gathered here. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128) One Candle Is Lit (verse 2) CRADI E SONG Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace. Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Jane Cave

One: How shall we prepare for the coming of the Christ child?

With hearts filled with hope. All:

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

With prayers and songs filled with adoration and devotion. All:

- One: How shall we prepare for peace on earth?
- With sincere and spirited worship. All:

†HYMN 140

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

AURFI IA

†OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, send your tender mercy as we seek to understand the depth of your love. Dissolve the shadows in our lives. Release those who are held captive by sorrow and struggle, that they may find hope and peace. Come to us and cleanse us like a refiner's fire, for we long to be purified in body and spirit. We want to be made ready to see the light of your salvation. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Prepare Ye the Way The First Church Choir

Penny Rodriguez

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of [God's] glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

<pre>*Response (Hymn 134)</pre>	Emmanue	el, Emmanuel	MCGEE
Emmanuel, Emmanu	el, his name is c	alled Emmanuel. God	with us, revealed in
us, his name is called Emmanuel.		Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828	
Sermon	The Ripp	ling of Rivers	Rev. Fredd

HYMN 119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus The First Church Choir Henry G. Ley

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As you rescued your people of old, O God, rescue us again and anew. As you purified the saints like a refiner's fire, purify our lives this day. Bless the gifts we bring before you now. Through our offering and our service, may those who have known dark days find their way into the light of your loving arms. Amen.

†Нүмһ 530	<u>I've Got Peace Like a River</u>	PEACE LIKE A RIVER
BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE	<i>My Soul Gives Glory to My God</i> The First Church Choir	MORNING SONG
Postlude	Allegro Vivace	John Stanley

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† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.