

# The Season of Advent 2023

“How does a weary world rejoice?”

**Our Theme:** “How Does a Weary World Rejoice?” is our theme for Advent, drawn from the Christmas song, “O, Holy Night,” a song that’s power lies not only in the tidal movements of the music, but in its acknowledgement of hardship and the rejoicing that can rise in its midst anyway. As the song builds, we hear ...“a thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!” This Advent, we invite you to turn toward Christmas not by turning away from your weariness or the weariness of the world, but by acknowledging it and then exploring where the crescendos of life’s music might be found. Together, we’ll talk about connection, amazement and awe, stories of hope and ritual as elements that can help us and our world find lift and resolution in the hands of the Divine.



**Fauntleroy Church Advent Devotionals:** These wonderful devotionals, created with the help of church members, compiled by Carolyn and Dean Tucker, and edited by Pat Gedney, are available in the narthex. Read an entry a day as you embrace centering time with God. A great way to sink into the season AND better know others in the church!

**Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones at Christmas:** Every year we invite you to honor or remember loved ones with a gift to Fauntleroy Church. Those honored or remembered with your extra donations will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletins. To participate, submit payments via check or online, indicating “memory/honor” so we know where to direct your donation. Then please let Operations Manager, Jalice May, know whom you are honoring or remembering, so we can properly acknowledge them.

**Dec. 10 Children’s Christmas Pageant:** In this year’s children’s pageant titled “Our Weary World Rejoices,” our children retell the classic Christmas story to remind us that, even in difficult times, sparks of hope can be found in some surprising ways and places. We just need to look for them. The pageant is always a wonderful, early Christmas gift from our children, and it will be the heart of our December 10 worship!

**Advent Festival & Stone Soup:** Immediately following the Children’s Christmas Pageant worship on Dec. 10, gather in Fellowship Hall for stone soup and an Advent Festival where all ages can make Christmas-related items. Have fresh ingredients to share for stone soup? Bring them to the kitchen before worship begins and watch all your contributions magically become amazing soups! Sponsored by our Parish Life Ministry – thank you PL!

**Festival of Trees:** A small forest of Christmas trees has bloomed in Fellowship Hall. We’ll enjoy the trees during Advent coffee hours and our Advent Festival on December 10. Bring your non-perishable food items to place under your favorite trees and help our local food banks in the fun! Want to show off our trees to friends and neighbors? We’ll open the church on December 13 from 7-8pm and December 16 from 6-7pm before our Christmas concert for those who can’t make it to worship to enjoy.

**Christmas Concerts: Saturday, December 16 @ 7pm and Sunday, December 17 @ 4pm:** The Fauntleroy Chancel Choir, the Fauntleroy Women’s Ensemble, the D.A.M Ukulele Band, as well as smaller groups of soloists and instrumentalists will present a diverse program of Christmas music, including plenty of congregational singing. Bring your jingle bells! The concerts are free and all are welcome.

**Giving Tree – Sunday, November 26 – Sunday, December 10:** Our giving tree this Advent season will offer five opportunities to donate toward basic needs of our neighbors. The West Seattle/Fauntleroy YMCA is joining us in responding to provide gift bags for children whose families rely on free meals at the Welcome Table (\$20), Safeway gift cards for low-income school families (\$25), household essentials for our asylum-seeking Peruvian families (\$30), underwear and hand warmers for unsheltered guests of the Welcome Table (\$35), and cots and blankets for the Westside Neighbors Shelter at Am. Legion Post 160 (\$40). Tags will be on trees in the narthex and lobby 11/26 through 12/10. Cash donations will be accepted online, in the plate, or in the church office. The trees and office will also have “Gift from the Heart” cards to present to someone you wish to honor with your donation.

**Christmas Eve Offering:** One-third of the Christmas Eve Offering will go to the “Christmas Fund” of the UCC, supplementing inadequate retirement savings and emergency aid for clergy and church employees in crisis; 1/3 to Fauntleroy Church and 1/3 to a missional effort of our church to be decided upon by our Finance Ministry as they look at the missional threads of the church and the needs of the world.

# The Season of Advent @ Fauntleroy Church, UCC



**12/3 Worship 10AM\***, *First Sunday of Advent*, Scripture: Luke 1:1-23, "We Acknowledge Our Weariness", *We light the candle of hope.*



**12/3 Youth Group, 5-7:30PM** – A fun gathering for youth in middle & high school.



**12/10 10AM Worship\***, *Second Sunday of Advent*, Scripture: Luke 1:24-55 / Isaiah 40:1-11, "We Find Joy in Connection", *We light the candle of peace.* The Children's Christmas Pageant takes place during this worship.



**12/10 Advent Festival & Stone Soup** – Gather in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship for soup and crafts to make for yourself or to give as gifts.



**12/13 Festival of Trees, 7-8PM** – Another chance to visit the Festival of Trees & vote for your favorites with donations of non-perishable food for the food banks.



**12/16 Welcome Table** – Volunteers provide lunch to our food insecure neighbors once a month in White Center.



**12/16 Christmas Concert, 7PM** – The Festival of Trees opens at 6pm.



**12/17 Worship 10AM\***, *Third Sunday of Advent*, Scripture: Luke 1:57-66, "We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed", *We light the candle of joy.*



**12/17 Christmas Concert, 4PM** – Reception to follow.



**12/17 Youth Group, 6-9PM** – Progressive dinner for youth in middle & high school.



**12/24 Worship 10AM\***, *Fourth Sunday of Advent*, Scripture: Luke 1:46-55/ Luke 1:67-80, "We Sing Stories of Hope", *We light the candle of love.*



**12/24 Christmas Eve – Three Evening Services:**

- 4PM – A shorter, interactive service offered with families and young children in mind. We'll end singing "Happy Birthday" to the Christ Child. Then all are invited to enjoy birthday cake at the reception that follows.
- 7PM\* – A worship with the traditional Christmas readings and carols. Worship ends with beautiful candlelight.
- 11PM – A more contemplative worship with communion. We'll end with candlelight and singing Silent Night.



**12/31 Worship 10AM\***, *First Sunday of Christmas*, Scripture: Luke 2:21-38, "We Root Ourselves in Ritual"



**12/31 Fellowship Sunday** – After a shortened worship service, stay until 11:30 for fun fellowship, conversation, and a festive coffee hour.



**1/7, 2024 Worship 10AM\***, *First Sunday of Epiphany (our "star word" service)*, Scripture: Matthew 2:1-11, Come and hear reflections shared by our members and receive a word to guide you through 2023.

\* = Offered in-person and live streams to YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/fauntleroychurchUCC>



Look for more event details in the weekly newsletter, Sunday worship bulletins, on Facebook, and on the church website. Questions? Contact the church office: 206-932-5600 or [info@fauntleryoucc.org](mailto:info@fauntleryoucc.org).