

Emmanuel Friedens Church



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 10:00 AM

*A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation
American Baptist and United Church of Christ Congregation*

Welcome to Emmanuel Friedens Church

Our worship service will be held in the Sanctuary at 10 am.
Online Worship will also be available at 10 AM live on Facebook and Zoom
(see below)

Facebook Live from the Emmanuel Friedens Church Facebook page

Log in to Facebook, and go to the Emmanuel Friedens page on Sunday morning.

If you have difficulty locating it, the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Friedens-Church-122934277889274/>

If you have a Facebook account and want to be notified about Emmanuel Friedens events, log into Facebook, go the Emmanuel Friedens Church Page and click “Like”.

The service will “go live” at 9:55 am to allow time to find it on Facebook before the service begins at 10 am.

OR

Join Zoom gathering

Zoom by internet:

<https://zoom.us/j/7050534826?pwd=eWdMNmJBT0FpK1ZHeE1jS0ZyNUVZQT09>

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

***Please note: To connect to Zoom, please hold down
the “control key-CTRL” and hit the link.***

This should connect to Zoom.

Then enter the meeting ID and password

Dial by any phone (voice and sound only)

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 705 053 4826 Password: 063310

A recorded video version of this service

will be available after 11 AM on Sunday mornings. At a time of your choice, go to the church’s website, <http://emmanuelfriedens.org/> and click on the link located on the Home page for the video of that day.

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Order of Worship



Prelude

“Peace Has Come”

Words/Music by Benjamin Hastings,
Seth Simmons, Ben Fielding
Minister of Music: Dianna Parisi



Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

God of Peace you sustain us

When we do not know the answer, you wait with us

When we are full of questions, You accept our ponderings

Help us to imagine a world of peace

Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, so that we can live into your Kin(g)dom

Fill us with Peace



+Opening Hymn

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
(Verses 1&2)

Hymns for the Living Church
Red #104



+The Peace of Christ

Pastor: The Peace of Jesus Christ be with you all

People: And also with you.



The Prayers of the People (Celebrations and Concerns)

Pastoral Prayer



Raising of the Wreaths/Hanging of the Green

Faye Bailey and Carl Taeubner, Mary Lou Chotkowski, Artie Loftis, and Trevor Radez

The most striking and the most universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. The early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. They symbolize the unchanging nature of our God. In Isaiah 60:13 we find these

words: "The Glory of Lebanon shall come unto you, the fir tree, the pine tree and the box together, to beautify the place of your sanctuary." Thus Christians before us called the procuring of these evergreens, "Bringing home Christmas!"



Invitation to Offer Gifts for the Children Those who have brought gifts from our Giving Tree requests are invited to bring them forward to place beneath the tree.

The Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

The Lighting of the Advent Candle - Peace



Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

Refer to Insert

(Verse 2)

Words/Music by Mary Lou Walker

Prayer of Confession: **God, we confess that we long for peace, be we do not know how to do. We confess that probably would not recognize the seedlings of peace, and feel like the struggle is too great. Teach us to see other than with our eyes and ears, we pray, so that we might know a different kind of peace we pray. (Silent Confession) Amen.**



Assurance of Pardon: Know the Good News, the Prince of Peace is coming, so we know the truth **(All) In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19, Isaiah 11:1-10

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

Sermon

"God the Gardener: The Seedlings of Peace"

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

Celebration of Communion



Invitation

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift our hearts to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise (prayer continues...) as your son taught us to pray.



The Lord's Prayer (Celtic version- New Zealand)

Holy One
 Beyond All Names
 Eternal Wellspring
 May Love rise again in us today
 with food for every table
 Shelter for every family
 And reverence for every life
 Forgive us for our failings in love
 And free us from all falseness
 That the light of ours souls may shine
 And the strength our our
 pirts may endure
 for the Earth and all its people
 This day, tonight, and forever
 Amen



Call for the Offertory **“Christmas Lullaby (I Will Lead You Home)”**

Words/Music by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton



Doxology

“Santo, Santo, Santo”

The New Century Hymnal
 (Black) #793



+Offertory Prayer **God may we be peacemakers wherever we go, planting and tending peace whenever we can, here and in the world we pray. Amen.**



+Closing Hymn

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”
 (Verses 1&3)

Hymns for the Living Church
 (Red) #106



+Blessing and Dismissal



Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Traditional
 arr. Linda Hartman

+ *Please stand, if you are able*

As a Welcoming and Affirming/Open and Affirming Church, Emmanuel Friedens Church welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, marital status, age, race, sexual orientation, or abilities, inviting all into membership, mission and leadership.

The Babyfold is open during worship but there is no scheduled supervision. **Hearing assists** are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Fellowship Time: Following the worship service, please join us in the Gathering Room for refreshments.

Visitors Invitation: All visitors are invited to sign into the red book at the entryway of the sanctuary.

Announcements for the Week of December 7, 2025

Raising the Wreaths/Hanging of the Greens is a long tradition at Emmanuel Friedens Church. We thank those who participated this morning: Faye Bailey and Carl Taeubner, Mary Lou Chotkowski, Artie Lofti, and Trevor Radez.

2026 Stewardship Campaign: Giving Sunday continues every day. Please mail your 2026 pledges to the office. Being able to tally everyone's intentions helps to prepare our 2026 budget. Thank you. Pledge cards are located at the back of the sanctuary.

Giving During the Advent Season:

- The Mitten and More Tree: This tree, which is located at the back of the sanctuary, is for donations of **new** mittens/gloves, and hats, socks for children and adults, and underwear. Bring in your items through December 28. Items will be given to the Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus in Albany (RISSE).

If you would like to make a monetary donation for the Mitten Tree, please send your donation to the church or if you are attending worship services, just place your donation in the box. Thank you.

Poinsettia Order: If you would like to order a poinsettia for the holiday season, forms are located at the back of the sanctuary. Orders are due on December 14.

Thank You to Faye and Evelyn for changing out the banners in the Sanctuary. And thank you to Faye and Carl for decorating the bulletin board for the advent/Christmas season.

Meeting/Events:

- Every Sunday: Choir: The choir meets for rehearsal at 9 am in the choir/music room. Every one of all levels are invited to join the choir to make a joyful noise to God! The choir will sing once a month in worship and for special occasions.
- Fellowship Meal-Next Sunday, December 14: Please join us in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The meal will be “make your own tacos.” Sounds fun!

Monthly Birthday Celebrations: Don't forget to record your birthdate on the calendar located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Our next birthday celebration will be for December birthdays. So, make sure you record the date of your December birthday.

Community News:

- Holiday Concert at Emmanuel Friedens: The Albany Gay Men's Chorus Concert—*Jingle All The Way!* - a choral celebration of joy, community, and inclusivity will be **performed here this afternoon at 3 pm**. The cost of a ticket is \$23 (purchasing online) and \$25 at the door. Website to purchase tickets:
<https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/agmc/events/1589>
<https://www.facebook.com/Albanygaymenschorus/>
- St. Joseph's Church 19th Annual Pre-Holiday Bake Sale on December 20 from 4:30 -6:30 pm and December 21 from 8:30 -10:30 am. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board.

December Envoy: Please remember to take a copy of the December Envoy which is located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Emmanuel Friedens Church



*218 Nott Terrace
Schenectady, New York 12307
(518) 374-4114*

*E-mail: ebcfried@nycap.rr.com, Website: www.emmanuelfriedens.org
www.facebook.com/emmanuelfriedenschurch*

Staff

Pastor		Rev. Dr. Kathryn Stenta
Music Director		Dianna Parisi
Office Administrator		Maria Puccio
Custodian		Dave Snyder

Church Hours

Pastor's Hours: Pastor Katy will be available for appointments Monday-Thursday. She will have open door office hours (no appointment necessary) every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 am. Friday is her Sabbath Day. Telephone number and email: 518-380-6922., katyandtheword@gmail.com.

For emergency pastoral care, please contact Pastor Katy directly (see above) or through the church office.

Church Office: Monday-Friday, 9:30 am –3:30 pm

Custodian: M-W, 3:30-8:00 pm; Th., 3:30 - 9:30 pm; F, 3:30 - 7:30 pm