

Emmanuel Friedens Church



The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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.

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 30, 2025
Order of Worship



Prelude

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Traditional
arr. Jim Brickman
Minister of Music: Dianna Parisi

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



God we are walking

Help us find your mountain, so we can walk towards you

Fill us with Hope, plant within us the seed

Prepare the ground of your Holy mountain

Teach us war no more, turn our weapons into plowshares

Fill our garden with Hope



+Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” Hymns for the Living Church
(Red) #102

+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 and The Lord’s Prayer- Celtic version by John Philip Newell)

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 our souls may shine

And the strength of our spirits may endure

for the Earth and all its people

This day, tonight, and forever

Amen





The Children's Message

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



The Lighting of the Advent Candle - Hope

Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)

(Verse 1)

Refer to Insert
Words/Music by Mary Lou Walker



+Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(Verses 1-3)

Hymns for the Living Church
(Red) #100

Prayer of Confession: **God, we confess that we sometimes are without hope, or that we feel like the ground has not been prepared. We sit and we worry about if we are feeling the right thing for the season. Sit with us, we pray. So that we can be reassured of your presence and love. (Silent Confession) Amen.**



Assurance of Pardon: Know the truth, God is preparing the way for us, with love and hope, and so we can tell one another the Good news. **(All) In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122

Ray Andersons



Special Music
(EFC Choir)

“We Wait in Hope”

Words/Music by Jim Hughes

(The Congregation is invited to sing this verse with the Choir)

We call on You, Emmanuel, God with us.
To strengthen us in unity, we wait in hope.
Our journey leads us to this place, to seek and call Your name.
We celebrate and wait in hope.
Come, O Lord.

Sermon

“God the Gardener: Planting the Seed of Hope”

Rev. Dr. Katy Stenta



Call for the Offertory
(EFC Choir)

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

Words/Music by Kathleen Thomerson



+Doxology

**Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the Beauty ev'rywhere;
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that make us free.**



+Offertory Prayer **God prepare us for advent, by preparing the ground for us and with us, letting us dig deeply, watering and caring for all that needs to be tended to. Amen.**



+Closing Hymn

“O Come, All You Faithful”
(Verses 1-3)

The New Century Hymnal
(Black) #135



+Blessing and Dismissal



Postlude

“Do You Hear What I Hear”

Gloria Shayne Baker

+ *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 November 30, 2025

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

- Our Giving Tree: You are invited to take a gift tag (for children requests) from the tree through today, Sunday, November 30. The unwrapped gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 7 so that they may be placed underneath the tree, and later distributed to the community (City Mission of Schenectady-toy store). **There are a few tags remaining.**
- The Mitten Tree: A second tree, which will be located at the back of the sanctuary next Sunday, will be 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 Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus in Albany (RISSE).

If you would like to make a monetary donation for either a child's gift or an item 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.

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.

Church Decorating, Saturday, December 6: Come help us decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Time: starting at 9:30 am.

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 in December.

Community News:

- Holiday Concert at Emmanuel Friedens: Emmanuel Friedens is excited to host the Albany Gay Men's Chorus concert—*Jingle All The Way!* - a choral celebration of joy, community, and inclusivity. They will perform here on Sunday, December 7 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/>,

The December Envoy: Articles, photos, etc. to be included into the December Envoy must be sent to the office by Tuesday, December 2. Thank you.

Emmanuel Friedens Church



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(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, 3:30-8:30 pm; Th., 3:30 - 9:30 pm; F., 3:30 - 7:30 pm