



Trinitarian Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
 Concord, Massachusetts
 October 1, 2017

Celebrating Community

"I am making the whole of creation new.... It will come true.... It is already done!
 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."
 —Revelation 21:5-6

SILENT PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, be with us today. Help me to see your presence in my life, in my community and the entire world. And may your love be reflected in me through acts of kindness and compassion.

INTROIT *Through North and South* William Billings (1746-1800)
 Through north and south and east and west, may God's immortal name be blest,
 Till everywhere beneath the sun, His Kingdom comes, His will is done.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from a prayer by St. Francis of Assisi*

One: Be praised, my Lord, because our sister, Mother Earth, sustains and bears us.
 Many: **Be praised because she raises food to feed us: speckled flowers and fragrant herbs.**

One: Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Sun, for he is lovely, glowing with great shine from you:
 Many: **Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water, because she is precious, humble, deep and wide.**

One: Be praised, My Lord,
 for Brother Fire, through whom you light all nights upon the earth.
 Many: **We praise our God for all creation and worship You with humbleness.**

*HYMN #439 In Christ There Is No East or West *St. Peter*
Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

***INVOCATION**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sung to the tune Azmon)
 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
 By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n. Amen.

OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES II Corinthians 3:1-6

SERMON *Defiant Hope - Christian Witness in a Time of Climate Crisis*
 The Reverend Dr. Jim Antal

*HYMN (back cover of bulletin) Come to Tend God's Garden *King's Weston*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayers, and The Prayer of Our Savior

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Call to Stewardship

Offertory *Cantate Domino* Giuseppe Pitoni (1657-1743)
Halleluyah! Sing to Adonai a new song and praise in the assembly of the *kedoshim*.
 Let Israel rejoice in its Maker. Let the children of Zion be glad in their King. (Psalm 149)

*Hymn of Praise *Old Hundredth*

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

***Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

Giver of all good things,
 let your grace flow through us; a generous stream,
 unstoppable, refreshing, abundant.
 We release these gifts into your river of love,
 flowing out to all the world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer


Sanctus

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

ONE: Holy, Precious, Faithful, God,
We thank you that by gathering at this table
We are reminded that we are all one body -
Mirror images of your body,
Reflecting your nature.

ALL: **Equip us with the fire of Your Spirit
To go from here as Jesus did,
To strive for a world
Where love reigns,
Where peace abounds,
And where justice prevails.
We pray this through the One who is
The Way, The Truth, and The Life. AMEN.**

*HYMN #507 (verses 1, 2, & 5)

I Come With Joy
 Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

Dove of Peace

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Setting of *Detroit* (American folk hymn)--*Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
setting by Wilbur Held

*The congregation is invited to stand.

† Go Forth and Serve †

Leading Worship: Rev. Robert Brown, Acting Senior Minister; Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift, Interim Minister for Spiritual Development and Congregational Life; Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Guest Preacher; Victoria Wagner, Director of Music; Marcia Macres, Liturgist.

The rose on the Communion table is in celebration of the September 20th birth of Jameson Bouchard Fincke. Jameson is the son of Taylor (Parrott) and Chris Fincke and the grandson of Hilda and Charles Parrott.

The flowers are given by the family of Robert Baldrige whose service was held here yesterday.

THE SILVER COMMUNION PITCHER we are using this morning was a gift to the church in 1897 and was saved from the fire in 1924.

Music

Bist du bei Mir
Neal Ferreira, tenor

Bach

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The bread will be taken individually as it is received.
(Gluten free bread is available on the communion trays.)

The cup will be taken in unison after all have been served.



WHO IS THE MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE, UCC?

Rooted in the grace of God, the mission of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) – the MACUCC – is **to nurture local church vitality and the covenant among our churches to make God's love and justice real.**

We are a gathering of 360+ active churches with over 61,000 members, making us the largest Protestant denomination in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Conference is one of 38 regional bodies of the UCC, which has over 5,000 congregations and over 880,000 members. The motto of the UCC is "That They May All Be One." This is from the prayer of Jesus (John 17:21) for the unity of the church.

As a Conference, we support one another in spreading the Word and doing the work of Jesus Christ – neighboring. Our churches are large and small, urban, suburban and rural. On any given weekend in our churches, you may hear traditional hymns or something more contemporary. You may meet people whose families have been in America for generations, or those who still speak the languages of their homelands in Asia, Central and South America. You may find a church hall that houses a soup kitchen or one that houses a coffee house for local performers. You may find a church that has declared itself Open and Affirming to gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual people, or you may find a congregation that is theologically more conservative.

Each of the churches of the Massachusetts Conference is unique, yet we are all united in Christ. We are a people of covenant, a united and uniting church.

Your regular giving through TriCon supports our collective ministry through the MACUCC. The TriCon annual mission budget includes a line item of \$50,000, which the Conference spends in eight arenas of mission:

1. 24.6 % to Supporting Churches and Pastors – ministries that share best practices with churches, assist congregations through staff transition, and guide through times of conflict.
2. 13.7 % to Office and Administrative Development
3. 13.3 % Lay Development Ministries – Training events like Super Saturday, Christian Education certification, youth ministry development, and confirmation programs.
4. 12.8 % Clergy Development Ministries – Pastoral Excellence Program, Boundary Awareness Training, Clergy Communities of Practice groups, and Safe Church information.
5. 12.7 % Justice and Witness Ministries – Disaster relief resources, education and action on racial justice, environmental concerns, homelessness, immigration, and restorative justice.

6. 12.2 % Leading our Church – Annual Meeting, Minister and President among the churches and in the public arena.
7. 6.7 % Nurturing Church Vitality – New Ministry Initiatives, Hispanic Ministries, Visioning and vitality resources, and MissionInsite resources for answering "Who is our neighbor?"
8. 4 % Buildings and Equipment – Offices and Conference grounds.

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Massachusetts Conference, UCC SUPER SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2017 -- 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM

Keefe Regional Technical School, 750 Winter Street, Framingham

The Cost

\$54.00—Individual

\$64.00—Late Registration (after October 7 and walk-in price)

Join us for a full day of worship, workshops and networking.
Great Day! Great Price! Cost includes, morning worship, 2 workshops, an optional lunch activity, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, marketplace and closing worship.

Participants will be able to attend two 90-minute workshops related to various aspects of church life, mission and ministries, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. In addition, participants have the option of attending a 30-minute table conversation or forum during one of the mid-day lunch periods.

Let Bob Brown or Jean Vandergrift know of your desire to attend. See descriptions of the workshops and register at macucc.org.