*tricon-worship-cmyk*

Trinitarian Congregational Church

***United Church of Christ***

**Concord, Massachusetts**

**December 10, 2017**

**The sECOND Sunday of Advent**

*Celebrating Community*

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius — and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction." –E. F. Schumacher.

**Silent Prayer**

God of all peace and promise, help me to see beyond the terror of headlines and frenzy of the season to remember that even now your steadfast love never ceases and your mercies never come to an end. Come Lord Jesus, come.

**Prelude** Improvisation on *Veni Emmanuel* Stephan Griffin

**Call to Worship**

One: As farmers wait for rainfall

As prisoners wait for freedom

**Many: We wait for the coming of God.**

One: As exiles yearn for home

As peacemakers yearn for justice

**Many: We long for the coming of God.**

One: As travelers search for shelter

As questioners seek for truth

**All: We prepare for the coming of God.**

**Hymn** (seated) O Come, O Come Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emman—uel, and ransom captive Is—rael,

That mourns in lonely ex—ile here, until the Son of God— appear.

Rejoice!  Rejoice!  Emman—uel shall come to thee, O Is—rael!

O come, Desire of na—tions, bind in one the hearts of hu—mankind.

Bid envy, strife, and dis—cord cease; fill the whole world with heav—en’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emman—uel shall come to thee, O Is—rael! Amen.

**Invocation**

**Words of Welcome; Our Mission and Ministry**

**Advent Wreath Ceremony**

**Hymn** (seated) It Came Upon a Midnight Clear *Carol*

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,

When with the ev-er circling years comes ‘round the age of gold;

When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,

And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**Message for Young People**

**Reading from Scripture and Lighting of Candles**

Christian & Griffin Meyer, Trish & Declan Siefer, Travis & Susannah Snell

**\*Hymn** **#3** Comfort, Comfort Ye My People *Psalm 42*

*Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

(Children may leave for their Church School classes after the first verse)

**Reading from the Scriptures** Isaiah 40:1-11 (p. 667 in pew Bible)

Mark 1:1-8 (p. 34 in pew Bible)

**Sermon** *Reclaiming Hope Through Divine Peace*Robert Brown

**\*Hymn #8**  Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Truro*

*Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**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 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** *There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob* Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

There shall a star come out of Jacob,

and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel,

and dash in pieces princes and nations.

How brightly beams the morning star!

What sudden radiance from afar!

The host of heaven rejoices.  Jesu! Jesu!

Holy, holy, yet most lowly, come draw near us.

Lord Emmanuel, come and hear us.

**\*Hymn of Praise** *Old Hundreth*

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free;  
Once more upon thy people shine,

And fill the world with peace divine. Amen

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, we present our offering filled with hope.

We hope you will bless this humble gift.

We hope this gift can further your kingdom.

We hope your kingdom will come.

May your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

**\*Hymn #539** Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise *Ellers*

*Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Récit de cromorne (Mass for the Convents)*  François Couperin

(1668-1733)

\*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; Victoria Wagner, Director of Music; Stephan Griffin, guest musician; Piper Harring, Liturgist.

**The flowers** are given by the DeMott family in loving memory of David, Marillyn and Jim.

**The corner arrangement** is given by Art and Susan Kluge in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary on December 20th.