



**Trinitarian Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ
 Concord, Massachusetts
 December 3, 2017
 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Celebrating Community

"To announce, however, that the Liberator is sitting among the poor and that the wounds are signs of hope and that today is the day of liberation, is a step very few can take. But this is exactly the announcement of the wounded healer: 'The master is coming--not tomorrow, but today, not next year, but this year, not after all our misery is passed, but in the middle of it, not in another place but right here where we are standing.'"

- Henri J. M. Nouwen

SILENT PRAYER

"Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our fingertips... Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case and make all things new. Amen."

Walter Brueggemann

As the Prelude begins,
 we quietly turn our hearts and minds toward the presence of God.

PRELUDE *Veni Emmanuel* Gilbert Martin (b. 1941)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.
Many: **Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.**

One: Come, seek the Lord.
 Place your hope in God's mercy and peace in God's love.
Many: **Lord, we seek your presence among us.**

One: The Divine Presence is close! God is making us ready.
All: **Brighten our Spirits this day.**
Fill us with the peace of Christ so that hope is reborn.

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! Amen.

INVOCATION

WORDS OF WELCOME; OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY

ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY

Hymn (seated)

Born in the Night, Mary's Child



1. Clear shin-ing light, Mary's child, your face lights up our way;—
 2. Hope of the world, Mary's child, you're com-ing soon to reign;—



Light of the world, Mar-y's child, dawn on our dark - ened day.
 Sav - ior of all, Mar-y's child, walk_ in our streets a - gain.

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Message for Young People

Reading from Scripture and Candle Lighting

Past and Present Co-Chairs of the Caring Connection
 Cynthia LaMothe, Kathy Flynn, and Polly Vanasse

***HYMN #44** (verses 3 & 4) O Little Town of Bethlehem *St. Louis*
Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs
 (Children may leave for their Church School classes after the first verse)

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

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

Commissioning of the Senior Minister Search Committee

*Congregational Response (in unison)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we receive you as our Senior Minister Search Committee and thank you for giving so generously of your time and talents. We recognize that the work of searching for the next pastor is a weighty assignment and will take much effort and discernment, so we promise you our prayerful support and patience. We promise, as well, to trust your leadership, maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

*Hymn of Praise

Old Hundreth

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
And with the angels bear thy part,
Who all night long unwearied sing
High praise to the eternal King. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Mark 13:24-37 (p. 50 in pew Bible)

SERMON

Finding Hope in the Shadowed Place

Robert Brown

*HYMN #5 (verses 1-3)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
 *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

Picardy

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Come, people of God, come to the table of hope!
All: **Our hope is in God, who made heaven and earth!**

One: Come, people of God, come to the table of peace.
All: **Christ is our peace, and healing for the nations!**

One: Come, people of God, come to the table of life!
All: **The spirit will feed us and make us new!**

Communion Prayer

Music

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

J.S. 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.

Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN #1

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
 *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

Stuttgart

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Little Partita for Advent

James Woodman (b. 1957)

*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; Ann Noyes, Liturgist.

The flowers are given by Judy and Jim Walpole in celebration of our church community.



CITY MISSION SOCIETY CHRISTMAS SHOP
Drop-Off by December 17 (no later)

Every year the City Mission Society's Christmas Shop brings holiday joy to the neediest families and individuals in the Boston area.

NEW items from the list below may be left in the Parish Hall.

**Winter Coats, Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Scarves, Sweaters,
Sweatshirts, Socks, Underwear, Blankets and Backpacks
Toys, Books & Games for All Ages**

Gift Cards for Target, Walgreens, Marshalls, CVS



There is a mitten tree in the Parish Hall where you may select a mitten providing information about a toy or an article of clothing that you may purchase for one of the children at the Transitions Shelter for homeless women and their children located in Devens, MA.

Purchased items should be returned to the church by December 17, wrapped, and with the mitten attached identifying who the gift is for. You may also add a Christmas card for the child.

CPO - Concord Prison Outreach

Volunteers Needed For
HOLIDAY GIFT BAG PROJECT
Concord Prison Outreach

Volunteers are needed to sort items and prepare gift bags at Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, weekday mornings Tuesday, November 28 through Friday, December 8 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. There will be one evening session on Wednesday, December 6 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Please sign up in advance for the evening session: Carol Miller (978-369-3755 or carolhmiller@comcast.com).



A special invitation for all the women
in the church to enjoy fellowship
and tasty treats at an

Advent Tea

**Wednesday, December 6th - 12:30 -
2:00 p.m.**

If you would like, please bring a small gift for one of
the moms at the Transitions Shelter.

These women, who have so little, would be delighted
to receive personal care products such as shampoo,
conditioner, soap, body and face lotion, makeup,
toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc;
towels (bath, hand and washcloths),
and gift cards to places like Walmart and Target.

Sign up in the parish hall or call the church office.

