



Trinitarian Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Concord, Massachusetts
February 18, 2018

Celebrating Community

"He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside. He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same words: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks, which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is."

- Albert Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*

SILENT PRAYER

Holy One, by the act of worship today, transform us from mere admirers into disciples. In Christ, help us find a cause we can live for, a self we can live with, and the living courage to carry the cross to death if so called. Amen.

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Laudes Domini

arr. Ridout

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in this sacred space to worship God,
 whose words and way challenge us.

Many: **Our Maker invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.**

One: God calls us to be fools in the world
 to show forth the wisdom of Christ,
 to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness.

Many: **The Good Shepherd bids us be obedient to the divine will
 so we might experience true freedom!**

All: **Therefore, this day and during this Lenten journey,
 we root our faith in the practice of worship that it may grow.**

***HYMN #130**

Let Every Christian Pray
 Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

Laudes Domini

***INVOCATION**

OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY

ANTHEM *God So Loved the World* John Stainer (1840-1901)

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES Mark 8:27-9:1 (p. 43 in the pew Bible)

SERMON Steps to Take at a Crossroads Jean Vandergrift

***HYMN** *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* *O Waly Waly*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Silent Confession

Kyrie

Solo: Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

All: Kyrie eleison

Solo: Christe eleison (Christ, have mercy)

All: Christe eleison

Solo: Kyrie eleison

All: Kyrie eleison

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Solo

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte (1985-1964)

Matt DiBattista, tenor

OFFERING OF GIFTS**Call to Stewardship****Offertory***Andante*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Hymn of PraiseOld 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 (responsive)**

One: We are not our own. We do not belong just to ourselves. We belong to you!
We are part of the Community of Christ and of the whole human family,
inhabitants upon this precious planet, dependent upon one another.

Another One:

Therefore, as far as it is possible during this time of offering,
we forget ourselves and all the things that we normally consider "Ours."

One: And allow ourselves to experience the utter joy of giving with open hands,
overflowing with your generosity!

Many: **Creator, Christ, and Comforter, we belong to you!**
Let your wisdom preside over all our actions.

Direct and dedicate these tithes and offerings to your eternal purposes,
Amen!

– Loosely adapted from John Calvin's *Institutes iii, 7*

***HYMN #434**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Kingsfold**BENEDICTION****CHORAL POSTLUDE***Lead Me Lord*

S.S Wesley (1810-1876)

Lead Me, Lord,
lead me in Thy righteousness,
make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord, only
that makest me dwell in safety.

*The congregation is invited to stand.

† Go Forth and Serve †

Leading Worship: Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift, Interim Minister for Spiritual Development and Congregational Life; Victoria Wagner, Music Director; Kathy Manley, Liturgist.