



Trinitarian Congregational Church
 United Church of Christ
 Concord, Massachusetts
 December 2, 2018
 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 WORSHIPING TOGETHER
 Nurturing 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. We do not want our several worlds to end. Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case and make all things new. Amen."

Walter Brueggemann

INTROIT

Out of the Wintry Gloom

Richard Shepherd

Out of the wintry gloom of night, out of the darkness of our days
 our Sun appears, a wondrous sight, morning of unbroken praise.

O come, our Dayspring and our Cheer. The herald calls and we obey.
 Now lift us by your Advent here. The message comes, "Prepare a way."

Come now, O Prince of Glory, come!
 Come quickly, as dawn follows night, and dwell with us.
 Here make your home, so all the world may see you.

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. Amen.

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 (verse 1, 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

The Boyajian Family – Ed, Alisha, Cordero and Levon

Hymn (verse 2, seated) Born in the Night, Mary's Child

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord whose light shines in the darkness,

All: **Have mercy upon us,**

One: Christ whose birth gives hope to all creation

All: **Have mercy upon us,**

One: Lord whose advent brings joy and love

All: **Grant us peace**

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

Hark, a Thrilling Voice

Ian Higginson

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, "Christ is nigh," it seems to say,
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."
Wakened by the solemn warning let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from Heav'n;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven.
That when next He comes in glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
With His mercy He may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing be to God: the Father, Son
And the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

*Hymn of Praise

Old Hundreth

Hope in the God who reigns above,
Who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose spirit blows across the earth,
Preparing us for second Birth. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of promise and hope, may our offering support ministries that advocate for peace,
sustain hope and promote healing. Prepare us to offer your light in the dark and
shadowed corners of our world. AMEN!

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Luke 21:25-36 (p. 85 in pew Bible)
Psalm 25:1-10 (p. 502 in pew Bible)

SERMON

The Advent of HOPE **Seeing in the Dark**

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

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

*The congregation is invited to stand.

† Go Forth and Serve †

Leading Worship: Rev. Robert Brown, Senior Minister; Rev. Dr. Jean Vandergrift, Interim Minister for Spiritual Development and Congregational Life; Victoria Wagner, Director of Music; Tom Bates, Liturgist.

The flowers are given by Barbara Feehrer in loving memory of her brother, David Bruce Belcher, December 7, 1945 - January 30, 2018.

The rose on the Communion table is in celebration of the October 30th birth of Annalise Margaret to Kaitlin and Brian Waterson and big sisters Avery and Amelia.



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

Advent Tea

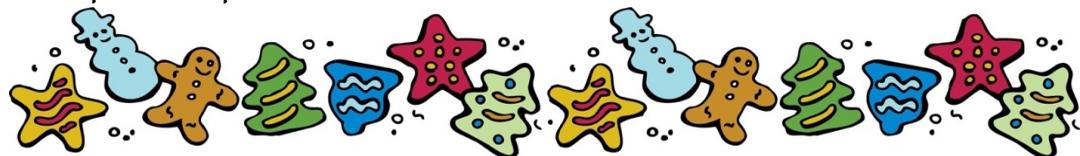
Friday, December 14th - 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

At the tea, we will be collecting items for
Open Table.

Many items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap,
body and face lotion, makeup, toothpaste, toothbrushes,
and personal care products cannot be purchased with Food
Stamps.

Our neighbors at Open Table will be most grateful for your
kindness.

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



Once again this year there is a Mitten
Tree in the Parish Hall. 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
House of Hope homeless shelter in
Lowell, currently housing 58 families.
Purchased items should be returned to
the church this week, wrapped, and with
the mitten attached identifying who the
gift is for. You may also add a Christmas
card for the child. **December 16 is the
latest date that gifts can be returned
to the church.**

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 Monday,
December 3 through Friday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. There will
be one evening session on Wednesday, December 5 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Please sign up in advance for the evening session: carolhmiller@comcast.com or
978-369-3755.



CITY MISSION SOCIETY CHRISTMAS SHOP
Drop-Off by December 14 (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