

ADVENT 2020 • DECEMBER



between  
**MEMORY**  
&  
**HOPE**

A Time To Remember

## A Time To Hope

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)*

It was a time of great uncertainty and darkness. The powerful few held an iron grip over the many. An oppressive regime ruled the land. Those on top profited at the expense of the overly taxed poor. It was a systemic repression. Lawful intimidation and sanctioned cruelty assured strict loyalty to the empire. The people were longing for liberation and aching for justice.

This was the social landscape into which Jesus was born. There was great social unrest, racial tensions and severe religious bigotry. In their dark and uncertain time, the Hebrew people clung to their faith. They *knew* the God of rescue. They remembered the sacred stories that told of God's redemption and recalled the powerful words of the prophets. In remembering God's faithfulness in the past, they fueled a persistent hope for tomorrow. So, they waited and watched with a vibrant hope for the coming of a Great Light, God's promised messiah, who would usher in a new world of justice, peace and equanimity. They lived a life sustained by memory and hope.

Advent is a season to remember the dark, oppressive world that Messiah Jesus was born into and also hope for the ongoing fulfillment of God's promise; the coming of the Prince of Peace. This Advent in particular, we too stand in a liminal space between memory and hope. We have all lost so much to the pandemic and yearn for the life we used to know. Now, still quarantined, we remember what Christmas used to be like and wonder how we will rekindle hope, peace, joy and love this year. But once again, from our own deep darkness, we are promised a light to guide us forward. *Between Memory and Hope* is our theme leading us into Christmas and Epiphany. **That's why we sent you a ribbon taped to the newsletter!** We want you to remember. The ribbon symbolizes a loss or grief from your past. It could be remembering the life of a beloved. Perhaps it is the death of a dream, or a fractured relationship. During Advent we invite you to tie this ribbon on the *wreath of remembrance*. Usually, we station the wreath in the sanctuary. This year we will



home.

This is one of the ways we will stay connected this Advent season, remembering our past and trusting in God's promise for a future. There are many other offerings to make this Advent and Christmas particularly meaningful so please read this newsletter carefully for more invitations to enter deeply into this holy season.

This Advent, from the shadowed place of quarantine, zoom meetings and social distancing, we will remember together and look back not only at the ancient scripture stories but also our own lived experience of God's rescue. May you find real hope in this amazing Christmas story and also in Christ's promise to come again.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,

*Bob*

Rev. Robert Brown – Senior Minister

station it on the Walden street door leading to the parish hall. You are welcome to come as you are able to attach your ribbon of remembrance to the wreath, or you might simply tie it onto the Advent wreath in your

## Advent Waiting – Advent Hoping

During Advent, we wait, and we hope – not just for things to get better – but for a person, Jesus Christ – on whom all of history turns.

Thousands of years ago, the people of Israel looked forward to the promised Messiah. The Old Testament is full of the hopes of the people with detailed descriptions of what the Messiah would be like. And then after Christ, as the church was forming, people read these descriptions of the Promised One with new eyes as they now saw that Jesus was, in fact, the one they'd been waiting for.

And so, the worship life of the early church lifted these images up in the days before the feast of Christ's birth to heighten the anticipation and deepen the experience of what it means to celebrate God's coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

They wrote seven prayers for the seven days before Christmas to be sung in the evening. They were written in Latin and begin with the word "O." Today they are commonly referred to as the *O Antiphons* (an antiphon is a something that is sung after a reading).

You know of them through the hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* which has seven verses to correspond to the seven prayers. (Though our hymnal has only three of the verses.)

During worship these four Sundays of Advent we will sing four of the *O Antiphons* as we light our Advent Candles:

- O Emmanuel
- O Desire of Nations
- O Dayspring
- O Wisdom

Christians are a forward-looking people – and this is expressed most especially during Advent. And most especially this year.

Singing with you on the Way,



Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life



# YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

To date, we have received 170 pledges, 63% of the anticipated total, and these are up on average 6% from last year. In aggregate, we are 73% of the way to our 2021 goal. This is a great start to our campaign in a year when it is needed more than ever but **we need to hear from the remaining parishioners who have yet to make a commitment to our shared ministry.**

Please send in a pledge card or go to our website and make a pledge on-line or simply call or email the church office. The church functions on the support of parishioners. Your contribution, be it large or small, is needed and valued.

See this excerpt from Stewardship message that Jake Brown gave in a recent service:

*Isaac Newton said "Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things." There is a simplicity in what we do at TriCon church. We come together in a CommUNITY of faith. We acknowledge our struggles, we support others in theirs. We admit to failure, to uncertainty. We listen – to the sermon, to the joys and concerns, to the needs of our broader CommUNITY. In this listening, this openness, this willingness to be wrong and acknowledge it, there is a truth that we strive for together – not by spinning our own reality, but in seeking to understand the reality others face every day. In this way, we build a wall of kindness and understanding that seeks to be a bulwark against subjective truth, complexity, and confusion.*

*Our CommUNITY is strong, it supports an ongoing search for truth and understanding, it fosters kindness. It is part of our historic battle for truth. Dr. Jim O'Connell, founder of Boston's health care for the homeless, said "if ever there was a year where the world could use some kindness, this is it." Kindness, empathy, and compassion are the antidote for a "post truth" world.*

*As in the parable of the two sons, we have to let our actions speak louder than words. Bob said in discussing the parable, "The vineyard still needs tending, and the gate is always open." We all need to hoe the rows, pick the grapes. Your contributions, our contributions, help sustain a place where truth still matters, where it's ok to be wrong, where we are allowed to change, to learn, and to evolve. It awakens us to the needs of others. It enables kindness.*

*Your contributions enable us to sustain our vineyard, our virtual and physical sanctuary, our CommUNITY. On behalf of the Stewardship committee, thank you.*



**Preaching Schedule:**

December 6th, 13th & 27th	10 AM	Rev. Bob Brown, Senior Minister
December 20th	10 AM	Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life
December 24th	5PM & 8PM	Rev. Bob Brown & Rev. Gail Miller



## Advent Sanctuary Walk Through

**December 13th & 20th,  
4:00-6:00 PM**



The Deacons, clergy and the church staff are planning two opportunities to walk-thru and see our beautiful sanctuary decorated for Christmas and to hear some Christmas carols played on the organ. While limited in scope, we hope that this will provide an enriching Advent experience for you and offer some *Christmas joy*.

Due to COVID restrictions on the number of people allowed in the space at a given time, you must sign up for a specific time slot. Masks must be worn at all times, social distancing observed and it will not be possible to sit in the pews.

For more information and to SIGN UP for your family's time slot, please visit [triconchurch.org](http://triconchurch.org), or find the link in your Friday weekly update email.



## LIVE NATIVITY

**New this year!**

**On December 13th and 20th, from 4:00 - 4:30 PM, and from 5:00 - 5:30 PM  
On the Church Lawn, as you enter the drive to the parking lot.**

***Get Involved!*** You, you and a friend, your family, your "pod" can sign up for one of the 4 slots available. We have need for 7 'roles' -- Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Shepherd, and Three Wisemen. We have the costumes and face masks, the manger is being built, the starry night will be set up -- please go to the website or your weekly email to find the link to the Sign Up. Or, as always, you can phone the church office. Please sign up by December 7th.

***Visit Bethlehem in Concord!*** On the evenings of the Advent sanctuary Walk-Through events, we are hosting a live nativity outside on the church lawn. The live nativity will only be set up during 4:00 - 4:30 PM, and again from 5:00 - 5:30 PM.



### **Christmas Eve**

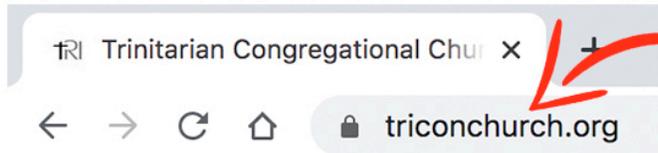
Two Zoom Services: 5:00 & 8:00 pm

Both services will include the Christmas Story with lots of carols and anthems sung by familiar voices, and the lighting of the Christ Candle with the passing of the light while singing Silent Night.

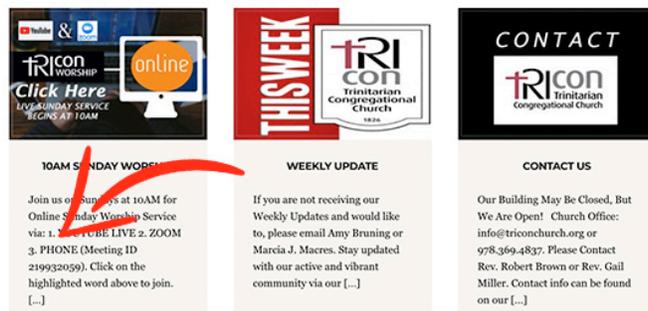
5:00 will include a Children's Pageant.

8:00 will include traditional Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion.

# How to join an online 10AM Sunday Worship service



1. Open TriCon website  
[www.triconchurch.org](http://www.triconchurch.org)



2. Click on 10AM Sunday Worship block

## 10AM SUNDAY WORSHIP

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT 10AM FOR ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE VIA:

1. **YOUTUBE LIVE**
2. **ZOOM**
3. **PHONE** (MEETING ID 219932059).

CLICK ON THE HIGHLIGHTED WORD ABOVE TO JOIN. THESE LINKS STAY THE SAME EVERY WEEK.

FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE [BULLETIN](#) AND [HYMNS](#).

LISTEN/READ ARCHIVED SERMONS ON OUR [SERMONS PAGE](#).

3. Click one of the three highlighted options:

1. YouTube Live
2. Zoom
3. Phone

it will open up the link for you.

*online worship services*

*The ZOOM links are emailed every week on the Friday eblast, and again on Sunday morning. The ZOOM worship link is the SAME EVERY WEEK ... 'bookmark' the page on your browser bar to find it quickly. Remember the website has everything you need!*



While our children’s education year may look different this fall, one thing hasn’t changed - our mission to continue to find safe, meaningful and fun ways to minister to you and your family.

See below for our December Children’s Ministry line-up. There is something for kids of all ages. Please note that there may be updates, so please check Carrie’s weekly family emails.



**Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>** First Sunday of Advent  
**Light the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle with Carrie – 9:45am**

**Week of November 30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Faith at Home Focus – Joel’s Prophecy of Hope*  
**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**Light the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle with Carrie – 9:45am**

**Week of December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Faith at Home Focus – Isaiah’s Prophecy of Hope*  
**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle with Carrie – 9:45am**

**Week of December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
*Faith at Home Focus – Mary and Elizabeth’s Visitors*  
**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** ,4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**Light the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle with Carrie – 9:45am**

**Week of December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**  
**Family Worship Zoom Service with Special Pageant – 5:00pm**

Each week Children’s Ministry Director, Carrie O’Brien, emails families Faith at Home practices, details about upcoming Voyager and SEEKER events, news and other programming opportunities.

If you are not receiving Carrie’s emails, or would like to begin receiving her emails, please shoot her an email at [cobrien@triconchurch.org](mailto:cobrien@triconchurch.org).



**TRICON**  
COMMUNITY

# YOUTH GROUP

## SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP

Christine Kelley, Youth Leader  
ckelley@triconchurch.org  
email or text 978-337-6171

December 6th & 13th: time is TBD  
Meet outside in the play yard off Hubbard Street



I'm here for

*Youth Group!*



**SIGN UP  
ONLINE  
REQUIRED!**

**SUG is  
refreshed  
weekly!**

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP

December 2nd, 9th & 16th: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Meet in the TriCon courtyard, enter off parking lot. Propane fire pit for light and warmth.

***DRESS WARMLY!***



The format may look different than in previous years, but the business of engaging our 9th & 10th graders in a Confirmation program continues.

**We have TWENTY freshmen/sophomore students coming together on zoom in large group classes, small group discussions, and in one-on-one connections with their mentors.**

Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life, is running the program, with the help of Paul and Leslie Mahoney, and Nick Bruning, who are participating as the small group leaders.

We welcome these students to the Confirmation Class and these adults as their Mentors.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Addison Boger     | Polly Meyer      |
| Jansen Brown      | Tom & Ruth Piper |
| Sadie Butler      | Vickie Wagner    |
| Alexa Detweiler   | Jen Clarke       |
| Daniel Edelman    | Otto Judicke     |
| Carson Enes       | Bob Lehmann      |
| Avery Feather     | Paul Mahoney     |
| Evelyn Freund     | Leslie Mahoney   |
| Sophia House      | CC Donelan       |
| Elizabeth Huettig | Betsy Swaim      |
| Charlie Kessler   | Christian Meyer  |
| Cat Lilly         | Diana Kolstad    |
| Lindsey Piper     | Carrie O'Brien   |
| David Rennert     | Bill Ackles      |
| Deco Siefer       | Nick Bruning     |
| Caroline Thut     | Polly Vanasse    |
| Caroline Weiland  | Heidi Harring    |
| Ashley Wieland    | Virginia Shannon |
| Byron Woodman     | Rick Olney       |



*We look forward to celebrating with you at Confirmation service on May 23rd.*



## ***Advent at Home – Wreaths and Candles!***

As we continue to worship 'together' from our homes, we want to provide you with the ability to participate more fully in the coming season of Advent. In particular, we are hoping you will join in the lighting of the advent candles with us each Sunday. Our church is offering small advent wreaths and a set of candles (3 purple and 1 pink, just like at church), for you to have in your homes.

**PICK UP YOURS TODAY! They are in the bin outside the church entrance to the Parish Hall, facing Walden Street.**

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World." As the body of Christ endeavoring to be the light of Christ, joining together in this way will strengthen us as individuals and as a church as we make our way into the dark days of winter.



Advent Small Groups are meeting for 3-week sessions, many days/times available. Go to the TriCon church website to find the link to the Sign Up, or find the link in your weekly emails.

The booklet is available as a download file. Paper booklets are available -- pick one up outside the Walden St. entrance, on top of our milk box.

<https://triconchurch.org/sign-ups/advent-booklet-sign-up-groups-begin-on-12-1>



## TriCon Annual Christmas Offering

The issue of food insecurity has been significantly increased by the current pandemic, affecting one in five persons in the greater Boston area. Since COVID, the number of children going hungry has increased by 59%.

Our 2020 Christmas offering will be sent to the Greater Boston Food Bank to further their goal of providing at least one nutritious meal a day for those in

need.

Each month they feed over 142,000 people in 190 cities and towns in Eastern Massachusetts.

Watch your mail for a letter and offering envelope or go to our website to make a donation to join the effort to fight hunger.

In addition to collecting monetary donations to the Greater Boston Food Bank, TriCon is offering an **Advent Food Drive for Open Table**. Bin outside Walden St. door.

# Advent Food Drive

thru Sunday, 12/13 @ 2PM

**Canned steews and chili**

**Canned fruit and mixed fruit cups**

**Nuts and Trail Mix**

**Low sodium soups and stocks** (no chicken or tomato)

**Quick bread mixes**

**Jam/Jelly/Spreads like Nutella**

*Helping Our Neighbors Locally and Globally*

*Serving Over 300 Guests Weekly*

**TRICON**  
OUTREACH



**OPENTABLE**  
FRESH FOOD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

## Holiday Gift Bags for our local Prisons

*Matthew 25:35-40* "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

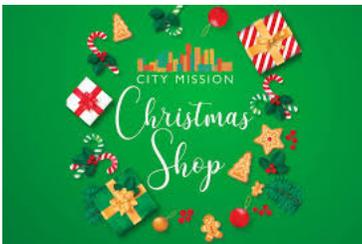
For many years, our church has supported the Holiday Gift Bag Project where the men in our local prisons are given a simple bag of necessities- often the only gift they receive. **This year, it is more important than ever!** Volunteer programs in all state prisons are on hold and the men incarcerated in the two Concord prisons have had no contact with volunteers, while the dangers of COVID-19 have made life in these close quarters even more stressful. This holiday season, we want to assure them that good-hearted people in the surrounding communities have not forgotten them.

We are unable to accept donations of gift items or cards but Concord Prison Outreach will purchase all the gift bag items and a festive printed card will be included in each bag.

Your check may be sent to Holiday Gift Bag Project, Concord Prison Outreach, 6 Walden Street #1, Concord, MA 01742; or checks may also be made out to the church, marked "holiday gift bag project," and mailed to TriCon at 54 Walden Street, Concord.



## Christmas Gifts for City Mission Society



For many years, we have supported the City Mission Society Christmas Shops where low-income inner-city residents can "shop" to provide gifts and bring some holiday joy to their families. Donations of new items for children, teens and adults are needed, including clothing, books, toys, games and crafts.

**These unwrapped gifts may be left anytime between December 1 and Sunday, December 13th (by 2PM, please!!) in the bin outside the Walden street door leading into the parish hall.**

IF you are looking for ideas, you may go to [www.citymissionsociety.org](http://www.citymissionsociety.org); look for "Christmas Shop" under "News and Events" and click on the "wish list." You will find items listed by age and category including toys and books from black-owned businesses.

This year, we are unable to do the mitten tree that has become a meaningful holiday tradition for many of us so we suggest, you might think of this in the same fashion and shop for an imagined 4 year-old girl who wants a baby doll; or a 11 year-old boy who is into Star Wars! And don't forget the teen who needs jeans or the single mom or dad who deserves a little treat!



Sign up for our

**WANT THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY ONLY??**

Contact the church office via phone or email and we will update you to **electronic communication ONLY** of the monthly newsletter. Thank you!

### **Men's Anchor Group**

For meeting dates and times, please email Greg Howes: [greg@howesinsurance.com](mailto:greg@howesinsurance.com)

### **Women of Spirit**

the Wed. @ 7:00AM every other week will continue through the holidays and into the new year.



contact:

Cheryl Shea: [cheryl.shea@verizon.net](mailto:cheryl.shea@verizon.net)

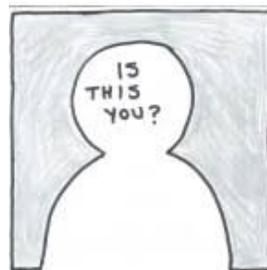
The Thursday evening WOS group has suspended through Advent and will resume in January.



Our sympathies are with the Pinkham family following the November 2nd death of Gloria Pinkham. Gloria, a long-time TriCon member, died at the age of 97.

We are also saddened to hear of the death of Russell Beede on November 8th. He recently moved to Rhode Island after being a longtime Concord resident and parishioner of TriCon.

**NEW ONLINE PHOTO DIRECTORY COMING IN 2021** ... stay tuned for exciting details from the TriCon Welcoming Committee (formerly Membership)!



We have recently received 2 stock gifts and 1 check, but the givers were not named. Please *show yourself* so we may acknowledge your contribution.

Facebook Stock

DraftKings Stock thru Raymond James Invest. and a check from the Elm Tree Fund

Please email [jwalpole@triconchurch.org](mailto:jwalpole@triconchurch.org) or call the church office 978-369-4837.



Please be very DILIGENT when you open your email and it appears to be a request from a friend for help, typically with gift card purchases. Read for tone and check the email address if at all suspicious!

*NOTE: TriCon Church will never solicit money through an email!*

The church building remains closed. Our worship services, committee work, and small groups continue through ZOOM. TriCon staff watches carefully the news and updates from Dr. Fauci and the CDC, monitoring the safety measures we all must follow to protect each other during this pandemic. Be well and wear your masks! *Thank you!*

**Racial Justice – Getting Real**  
Tuesday, December 1, 7:30pm  
Video and Discussion

All are invited to gather on zoom to watch a short video featuring Dr. Joy DeGruy. Joy is a renowned researcher, educator, author and presenter on the topics of culture, race relations and contemporary social issues. She is a tell-it-like-it-is ambassador for healing and a voice for those who've struggled in search of the past and continue to struggle through the present. The link can be found in the Friday email and on the church website.



If you have attended one or both of our previous zooms, or if this is your first opportunity, we invite you to connect and to reach for deeper understanding of this important issue that impacts ALL of us as individuals, community members, and people of faith.

Racial Justice Task Force: Michele Forinash, Prescott Stewart, Ellen Quackenbush, Betsy Swaim, Gail Miller



Calling all Committee Chairs! It's coming up on that time ... **ANNUAL REPORTS!** Please email Amy Bruning ([abruning@triconchurch.org](mailto:abruning@triconchurch.org)) by **JANUARY 4TH**. Last year's annual report is on the [triconchurch.org](http://triconchurch.org) website, so if you need guidance or mental refreshing, go there, or always feel free to call the church office.



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