



**Trinitarian Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
 Concord, Massachusetts  
 December 9, 2018**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Nurturing 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.

**INTROIT**

*Christ is Nigh*

Old Scottish Tune, arr. Schweizer

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, our Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

He comes down like fragrant showers, raining on the fruitful earth,  
 Love and joy and hope, like flowers springing on his path to birth:  
 See before him on the mountains peace, the valiant herald, go;  
 Righteousness, in flowing fountains, from the hills to valleys flow.

Kings and monarchs bow before him, myrrh and gold and incense bring;  
 For all nations shall adore him, laud and praise, their offering;  
 Unto him shall prayer unceasing, with our daily vows ascend;  
 His great kingdom still increasing, kingdom that shall have no end.

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

**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*

It came upon— the midnight clear, that glor—ious song— of old,  
 From angels bend—ing near the earth to touch their harps— of gold;  
 "Peace on the earth— good will to all, from heav—en's all-gra—cious king."  
 The world in sol—emn stillness lay to hear the an—gels sing.

**Message for Young People**

"Blessing of the Christmas Gifts"

**Reading from Scripture and Lighting of Candles**

The Boger Family: Matt, Lindsay, Addison and Penn

**\*Hymn**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

Yet with the woes— of sin and strife, the world— has suf—fered long,  
Beneath the an—gel strain have rolled two thousand years— of wrong.  
And warring hu—mankind hears not the tid—ings which— they bring:  
O hush the noise— and cease your strife and hear the an—gels sing.

For lo, the days— are hastening on, by pro—phet bards— foretold,  
When with the ev—er circling years comes round the age— of gold,  
When peace shall ov—er all the earth its an—cient splen—dors fling,  
And the whole world— send back the song, which now the an—gels sing.

(Children may leave for their Church School classes during the hymn.)

**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

Luke 3:1-6 (p. 60 in pew Bible)

**SERMON**

*Now is the Day for PEACE*

Robert Brown

**\*HYMN #3**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People  
 *Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs*

*Psalm 42*

**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 give 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**

*Fantasia on 'Greensleeves'*

Sunita Staneslow

Giomar Turgeon- violin, Joyce Alper-oboe, Jaimee Joroff-harp

**\*Hymn of Praise**

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.

*Old Hundreth*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, we present our offering filled with hope.

We hope you will bless this humble gift.

We hope this gift will promote peace where there is anxiety.

We hope your kingdom will come.

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

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**Edward Feather**

**Erin Lynch**

**Travis Snell**

**Chad Tyson**

**Krissy Tyson**

**Introductions**

**Covenant Promises**

**\*The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith**

This church acknowledges as its head Jesus Christ.

We acknowledge as sisters and brothers in Christ  
all who share this confession.

We look to the Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures,  
and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

We claim as our own the faith of the historic church  
expressed in ancient Christian creeds

and in the basic insights of Protestant Reformers.

We affirm the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ  
and recognize the responsibility of the church in each generation  
to make the Christian faith its own.

We join in this confession in joy, in hope, and in gratitude  
for all of God's gracious gifts. Amen.

**The Congregation's Promise of Support**

\*HYMN #13

Prepare the Way, O Zion  
 Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

*Bereden vag för Herran*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*An Oíche úd i mBeithil  
Nos Galan*

Traditional Irish  
Traditional Welsh

\*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; Charity Tremblay, Liturgist.

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

#### WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Ed Feather** started attending TriCon with his partner Susan Mlodozienec and their boys Whit and Avery Feather shortly after moving to Concord about four years ago. Whit is a Junior at CCHS and Avery is in 8th grade at Fenn. Whit is active in Youth Group and is excited to go on the Mission Trip this year. Avery is active in the Seekers program and Ed and Susan have also helped coordinate the Seekers over the past few years.

**Erin Lynch** lives in West Concord with her 11-year-old son Will, a fifth grader at Thoreau. A transplant from Oregon, Erin enjoys exploring New England and has been fully indoctrinated by all the Boston sports teams (but still eats nightshades). She works as a graphic designer in Boston, and also enjoys cooking, baking, writing, movies, watching baseball, and making things out of felt. Erin and her son have been coming to TriCon for a few years. She loves the sense of community here (especially important as a single mom), and is excited to make her membership official.

**Travis Snell** lives in Carlisle with his wife Liza, daughter Susannah, a freshman at CCHS, and son Sam, a sixth grader at Carlisle Public School, and their dog Willy. A native of Grand Rapids, MI, Travis has been a Church School teacher at TriCon for the past 10 years. When not in church, you can find Travis with his family, often skiing or doing something athletic, or at his office in Concord where he manages commercial real estate.

**Chad and Krissy Tyson** moved home to Concord from London twelve years ago. Since then they have added Charley (age 12), Jack (age 10), their dog Churchill (age 6) and Milly (age 4) to their household. Chad and Krissy are both lawyers. Chad works in corporate finance law and Krissy has her own firm specializing in indigent criminal defense. Charley loves soccer, lacrosse and art. Jack loves swimming, lacrosse and building with Legos. Milly plays soccer, dances ballet, and loves to wear fancy dresses. Their favorite things to do as a family are hiking, fishing and skiing.