



The Third Sunday after Epiphany

I now see that believing in Jesus can (and does) mean something different. The change is pointed to by the root of the meaning of the word believe. Believe did not originally mean believing a set of doctrines or teachings; in both Greek and Latin its roots mean “to give one’s heart to.” -Marcus Borg, Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

SILENT PRAYER

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME, MINISTRY AND MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.
People: Whom shall we fear?
Leader: The Lord sets us high on a rock, above our enemies.
People: The Lord shelters us in our day of trouble.
Leader: We, who have walked in darkness, have seen a great light.
People: We, who have dwelled in a land of deep darkness, on us, light has shined.
Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.
People: Whom shall we fear?

* **HYMN #482** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

* **INVOCATION**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

* **HYMN #304** Jesus Loves Me
Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs
(Children may return to their families)

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES John 3:14-21 (pg. 864 in your pew bible)

SERMON Claiming Jesus Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

* **HYMN #388** O Jesus, I Have Promised
Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent and Pastoral Prayer, The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in 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

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; Daystart, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn accompanied by Thee. Joyless is the day’s return till Thy mercy’s beams I see; till they inward light impart, cheer 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. – Charles Wesley

* **Hymn of Praise** *Old 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** (in unison)

Gracious God, in token of our lives we bring you these gifts and dedicate them to your service. Take them, and us, and show forth your glory. And may your light shine forth from this church into all the world. Amen.

* HYMN #356

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
 Hymns, Psalms & Spiritual Songs

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The congregation is invited to stand.

† Go Forth and Serve †

Leading Worship: Rev. Robert Brown, Senior Minister; Rev. Gail Miller, Minister of Congregational Life; Victoria Wagner, Music Director; Dale Ryder, Liturgist. We welcome the Reverend Wendy Vander Hart as our guest preacher this morning.

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart is an Associate Conference Minister of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. She works regionally with congregations, pastors, leaders, search committees and the Committees on Ministry in the Northeast and Metropolitan Boston Associations. She comes to this work as a preacher's kid and after having served two pastorates in 18 years at the Melrose Highlands Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church in Reading.

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of James Alden Crowell, son of Cheryl Flynn and Liz Crowell, brother of Isabel and Matthew Crowell, and grandson of David Crowell.

For God so loved the world
that He sent his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not
perish, but have *eternal life*.
John 3:16



Trinitarian Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
January 26th, 2020

54 Walden Street, Concord, Massachusetts
www.triconchurch.org