

Offertory: "Advent Canticle" D. E. Wagner

***Doxology:**
Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the newborn Son.
Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.
Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day! (Tune: IRBY)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:** (Discipleship Ministries)
Generous God, as we bring our gifts to you this day, we acknowledge that we have been given so much by your goodness, but we have been tight-fisted and slow in giving to help others. In this Advent season of preparation, we ask you to help us live in a new way, to walk a new highway, to set ourselves on the path that leads to a closer walk with Jesus, our example and redeemer. May this be the season when he finds the highways to our hearts prepared for his coming. In the name that is above all others. Amen.

***Hymn:** "The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" TFWS# 2098

Benediction

Postlude: "Joy" George Winston

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Acolytes: Charlie, Henry and Julia Gray

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of David Coffin, Jr. by his mom, Barbara.

Altar Guild: Phyllis & Chad Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Vera Baker and volunteers

Liturgist: Ellen Lutz

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Nicole Baker, Jo Anne Evans, Wendy Regan

Video Team: Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

Please Pray for:

Borys B, James B (Bridget's brother), Vonda B (Chad T's sister), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth Vahadji), Dominick E, Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), John K, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Velma M, Dorothy M, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Nancy S, Jody F (Shannon F's mother), Lynn T, Mary (T) G (Nate T's sister & Camille's sister-in-law), Alison W, Andrew W (Phyllis T's nephew), Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), our service men, women and their loved ones, the people of Ukraine and those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

www.trinityspringfield.org

Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Michael Carney

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern

District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe

Bishop, Sudarshana Devadhar



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.



Celebrate God's love

Nurture relationships with God and one another

Serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”

—Henri Nouwen, *Christian Mystic*

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT TO WORSHIP

** Those who are able are invited to stand. * Items in bold are read in unison.*

We are invited to observe silence during the prelude. Please turn off cell phones.

If you have a prayer request, please write it on a “Prayer Card” found in the card rack, and place it in the offering plate.

All prayer requests will be lifted up during the Wednesday morning prayer meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Prelude: “Morning Star” J. Leavitt

Welcome and Announcements

(New visitors only please fill out the blue paper in the red folder. Others, please sign the white attendance sheets.)

Introit: “Christ, Be Our Light” B. Farrell

***Call to Worship:** (Design Studio Marcia McPhee)

One: We come from a world of darkness

Many: Into Christ’s world of light.

One: We come from a world of weariness

Many: Into God’s strength and hope.

One: We come from a slumbering world.

Many: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

***Hymn:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” UMH# 196

*Prayer of Confession:

God of the wilderness, Voice in the desert, we look from a distance at John the Baptist and others who shout hard words about repentance. We are curious, yet strangely uneasy, for deep down we fear we have bought into comfort and convenience, rather than following the impoverished Christ. We have settled for routine piety and a tame faith rather than the long nights of anguished prayer and days in the wilderness. We fear our death and trade, our trust in God for lesser gods of achievement, recognition, and security. God of the wilderness, speak to our hearts and strengthen our will to seek you in all the seasons of our lives and to follow you in all our days. Meet us, love us, and forgive us. Amen.

*Words of Assurance and Pardon:

And now may our God make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. Christ promises to strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may be blameless before our God and creator at the coming of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: “Teach Us to Love” M. Patterson

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: The Frederick/Supinski family

*Passing the Peace of Christ

(To help us be a warm and caring spiritual home, please take a few moments to greet on another in Christian love. A historical Christian greeting would be: “The Peace of Christ be with you. “And also, with you.”)

Children’s Moment

A Moment of Music, Movement & Dance: “Season of Joy: Joy to the World” trad/arr. I. Walts
Dance Movement Choir, and guests

Pastoral Prayer, Joys and Concerns

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.

Prayer Response

***Hymn:** “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH# 216
(Children 4-6 are invited to Bible Story Time downstairs. Children 7-12 are invited to Chapel Kids in Grace Chapel. Parents are asked to escort their children and pick them up.)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 10-11
For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Are You the One?” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Invitation to Offering:

On this Third Sunday of Advent, inspire us to give back to you so that together, we can be in ministry to all of the world. With joyful hearts let us give back to the Lord.