

Offertory:

“Prepare Ye”

M. A. Robinson

***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)

Giver of all good gifts, bless the offering we make this morning, a small token to all the blessings you have poured down on us. Into our human weakness, you gave the greatest gift of all: Emmanuel, your presence with us, in Jesus the Christ. Not just a presence, but an invitation: through him, to be your children and heirs to your Kingdom. May our gifts, hymns, prayers, and promises help us realize that Kingdom in our hearts and in our world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

UMH# 211

Benediction

Postlude

We thank those who participated in today’s service:

Acolytes: Adeline Berke, Anja Berke, Felix Everett

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Eileen Clark, from her family.

Altar Guild: Deb Garth and Kathy Hathaway

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Wendy Regan and volunteers

Liturgist: Melissa Butcher

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Lisa, Andrew, and Jacob Bakowski, Ray Miller

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 G), Dominick E, Blair J (Brenda L’s grandson), John K, Brenda L, Christopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine’s sister-in-law), Velma M, Dorothy M, Holly Joy P, 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



FOURTH 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." - Mother Teresa (St Teresa of Calcutta)

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: "In the Bleak Midwinter" M. Hayes

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

Introit: "I've Got Peace Like a River"

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

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.

Leader: There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in the place,

ALL: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

***Hymn:** "Once in David's Royal City" UMH# 250
(Verse 1 will be performed by a soloist. The congregation is invited to join in on verse 2.)

***Prayer of Confession:**

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem they found there was no room. We confess that in the midst of all our anxieties we have not made room in our hearts for others. We confess that, paralyzed by fear, prejudice, or apathy, we have not made room in our homes for the stranger. We confess that, forgetting the welcome we have been shown, we have not made room in your church for those who are different from us. We confess that in the busyness of Christmas time we have not made room in our lives for you. Gracious God, forgive us and renew us. Use this Advent time to break open our hearts, throw open the doors, open our eyes to your presence and open our arms wide to welcome you. Amen.

***Words of Assurance and Pardon:**

God is good! God is faithful! God is merciful! And God comes to us, in vulnerability, again and again, to show us how much we are loved. We are forgiven; we are freed; we are beloved; we are blessed. Thanks be to God!

Amen.

Stewardship Moment: Steve Sheffield

Special Music: "Angels We Have Heard on High" Traditional French carol arr. Gramann
Trinity Handbell Choir

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: The Rust 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.")

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT'S WORD TO US

Children's Moment

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:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH# 230

(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: Luke 2: 1-7 (NRSV) N.T. p. 54

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: "The Search and the Rejection" Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

On this Fourth 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.