

Offertory: “Creator of the Stars of Night”

***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:**
God of peace and justice, these gifts we give this morning, may they be used to make human hearts ready for peace and for the reign of your son. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** “Soon and Very Soon” UMH# 706

Benediction

Postlude: “Come, Thou Savior of Our World” A. Vetter

We thank those who participated in today’s service:

Acolytes: Felix, Fiona & Meriel Everett

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Altar Flowers: In memory of Arthur, Sue, and Skip Billion, from the Billion/Squillace family.

Altar Guild: Kathy Hathaway

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Katherine Lovell and volunteers

Liturgist: Don Evans

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Ann Guyotte, Kathy Hathaway, Brenda Lopez, Margo Sweetland,

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 V), Dominick E, 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), 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



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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

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Bolded text is said in unison. *Please stand as you are able.

Meditation:

“Only through love can we attain to communion with God.” -- Albert Schweitzer

Prelude: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 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: “O Come to Us, Emmanuel”

*Call to Worship:

One: In the midst of waiting. God sends an invitation.

Many: The twinkle of a candle in the window bids us welcome home.

One: The unhinged gate swings wide open.

Many: The pile of rocks at the side of the road signals a smooth path.

One: All is ready, Listen! Hear the flutter of angel wings. Come and worship.

Many: Let us worship with joy!

***Hymn:** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” UMH# 213

*Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, there is no stopping us now. There is so much to do before Christmas, and we are on the move. We are making our lists and checking them twice. We hear “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and pray we’ll have twice as many. We are looking for boughs of holly and dreaming of a white Christmas. We see sugar plums, red-nosed reindeer, twinkling lights and mistletoe on every store front. Holy God, this season can be such a jumble and a rush. Through it all, in it all, and in spite of it all, restore the sense of whom we are waiting for. Let us get ready our hearts as well as our homes to receive the Savior of the world. Amen.

*Words of Assurance and Pardon:

One: In Christ, we are made new and rich in every grace needed to restore us, and make us whole. In Christ, we are forgiven and made blameless before God. Praise God for this glorious gift!

Many: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” H. Helvey

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Ruth Kimani & 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

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Alicia Banchor Pereira

Dear God, we thank You for the gift of Alicia to raise, her life to share, her mind to help mold, her body to nurture, and her spirit to enrich. Let us never betray her trust, dampen her hopes, or discourage her dreams. Help us dear God to help this precious child become all You mean her to be. Let your grace and love fall on her like a gentle breeze and give her inner strength, peace, and patience for the journey ahead. Amen.

Baptism Music: "God Claims You" TFWS# 2249

Refrain: Alicia God claims you, helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

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

(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 24: 36-44 (NRSV) N.T. p. 26

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: “Take Heed, Watch, and Pray” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Invitation to Offering:

On the First Sunday of Advent, inspire us today 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.