

Invitation to Offering:

Elizabeth offers everything she has when Mary shows up at her door, and it just feels holy, doesn't it? Part of our call as people of faith is to give when and where we can. So today we are invited to be a little more like Elizabeth. Today we are invited to give generously, trusting that God will take these gifts and build a better world here. Let us give with joyful hearts.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

Good and gracious God, we give these gifts for the seekers. We give these gifts for those who need sanctuary. We give these gifts for those who build sanctuaries. We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary, and for those who find sanctuary all over the place. Use these gifts to bring us closer to home. With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

* Liturgy created by A Sanctified Art.

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanists: Vera Baker and Steve Hays

Acolytes: Felix, Fiona, and Meriel Everett

Advent Wreath: Ken Guerin's creation

Altar Guild: Kathy Hathaway and Beverly Ratté

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Coordinators for Online Worship: Clara Lee and Jim Sharrard

Liturgist: Lisa Bakowski

Poinsettias: In memory or honor of loved ones (see insert)

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

Video Team: Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Eric Wing

Maranatha, Come – F. O'Brien

"Maranatha" is transliterated into English from two Aramaic words which are rendered either as "Marana" and "tha," which is translated as a prayer "Our Lord, come"

Maranatha, come, Come, Lord Jesus

Maranatha, come, Come, O God

Wisdom of God, guiding creation,
Lead us in ways that are faithful to your name.

From Jesse's stem raise up your people
Let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

O radiant dawn, O sun of justice.
Shine on your people in darkness and in death.

Savior of all, hope of the nations,
Bring us to freedom, Emanuel



Celebrate God's love

Nurture relationships with God and one another

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

Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

www.trinityspringfield.org

Pastor, Rev. René Perez

Director of Music Ministry, Michael Carney

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern



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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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

* Stand if you are able ✨ See words to the right ✨ See words on the back

Prelude: “In the Bleak Midwinter” CRANHAM arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

(Visitors/members please sign & date the red folder & pass it on. Please remember late comers.)

Introit: “O Come to Us, Emmanuel”

*Call to Worship ✨

***Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” UMH #234

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness: ✨

Lighting of the Fourth Candle (Love): ✨ The Berke Family

Special Music: “Maranatha, Come” F. P. O’Brien

Children’s Moment

Mission/CNYB Moment: Diane Mackie

Pastoral Prayer, Joys and Concerns, The Lord’s Prayer ✨

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-55 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 53-54

***Hymn:** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH #206

(At the start of this hymn, children ages 7-12 are invited to go to the Chapel for Chapel Kids.)

The Message: “A Place of Refuge”

Invitation to Offering: ✨

Offertory: “People, Look East” BESANCON arr C. Courtney

Doxology: UMH #94

Prayer of Dedication: ✨

***Hymn:** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240

*Benediction

Postlude: “Prelude and Fugue in A Minor” J.S. Bach

WORDS TO FOLLOW ALONG

➤ Bold Items Are the Congregation’s Part.

Call to Worship:

L: We are seeking—

P: deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

L: We are seeking—

P: joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

L: We are seeking—

P: the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

L: We are seeking, but here in this space,

P: We are found.

L: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

P: God is here. We are found. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Candle Lighting Liturgy – Candle of Love

A: God’s love is like an open door.

B: God’s love is the streetlight that guides us home.

A: God’s love is a warm bed to fall into.

B: God’s love is a table with room for you.

A: God’s love is a crackling fireplace.

B: God’s love is the sun that streams through the windows.

A: God’s love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

B: God’s love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

A: God’s love is a home for all.

B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

A: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts. B: Amen.

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.