

With COVID cases on the rise in Massachusetts, now is the time to be vigilant. That means keeping your mask over your nose and mouth, maintaining at least a 6 ft. distance between you and those around you, and leaving the sanctuary promptly after the postlude as directed by the ushers. If you wish to stay and talk with others, you are welcome to do that outside. If you would like to speak with one of our pastors or staff members, please make an appointment. Thank you for doing your part. This is important as we endeavor to provide an in-person worship option that is as safe as possible during this time.

Thank you to those listed in the bulletin who participated in today's service. We also thank:

Advent Display: Ken Guerin

Altar Guild: The Thompson Family

Attendance Taker: Nicole Baker-Cooley

Bulletin Cover: Graphic art by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Coordinators for Online Worship: Clara Lee and Jim Sharrard

Liturgist: Phyllis Thompson

Ushers: Head Usher, Margo Sweetland, **Asst.** Sheila Womble, **Ushers:** Lisa Bakowski, Donald Cushing, Ginger Elliott

Videographer: Nic Odell

Reminders:

Prayer and Reflection - Wednesday, December 2 - 5:30 p.m.: To encourage you to see Advent, to make certain you don't miss it, join us on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30p.m. for a time set apart. December 2, 9, and 16 in the Sanctuary. You can let us know you're planning to come or ask questions by contacting Cathy MacGovern. As always, wear your mask and follow social distance requirements.

Advent Bible Study: Join us for a Bible story based on the birth story of Jesus. Pastor Rene will guide us through the historical events that made the story of the birth of Jesus so significant, inspiring and even unbelievable. Based on the book by Jewish Biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine "Light of the World". **We will meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. BRING YOUR FAVORITE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE.** We begin Dec. 3 with Luke 1:5-25, 57-79. See Thursday Thoughts for the link.

Angel Tree Goes Virtual: Sponsor a child of a prisoner for \$22 and they will receive a Christmas package shipped by the Prison Fellowship on behalf of their incarcerated loved one. The package will include a \$20 gift card to Walmart, the prisoner parent's message, a Gospel presentation, and an opportunity to receive a free Adventure Bible. Visit <https://vat.angeltreetool.org/a6da9eee-cffa-4767-adba-839655ce15f0> to sponsor a child. Enter Trinity's access code: **R6VPA**, select a child online, pay securely. If you're unable to access online, contact Ginny Blake 413-222-6593.



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

Director of Music Ministry, Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

Associate Pastor, Rev. Erin Newcomb-Moore

Senior Pastor, Rev. René Perez



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

First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2020

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

(A Time of Gathering: 10:20 a.m.)

Organ Prelude: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" N. Rawsthorne

Introduction & Prayer Updates

(Livestream Begins: 10:30 a.m.)

Prelude: "Noel Nouvelet" B. Adams
Kyle LaFleur, flute

Welcome & Announcements

Introit: "The People Who Walk in Darkness" D. Angerman
Hannah and Leah Rosenman

Liturgy for Lighting the Advent Candles: ✨

Words & Music by G. Elderkin/J. Raney

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.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (NRSV)

Special Music: "Advent Canticle" D. Wagner

Sermon: "Absence and Radiance"

Closing Response: "Walk in the Light" A. Thomas

Benediction

Postlude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Veni Emmanuel

WORDS TO FOLLOW ALONG

- **Bold Items Are the Congregation's Part**

Liturgy for Lighting the Advent Candles:

(A Gospel Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony, Hope Publishing)

Musical Introduction

"Jesus, the Light of the World"

Advent Litany

Advent is a time to wait.

We wait in hope for the dawning light.

Advent is a time to wait for freedom from captivity.

We wait in hope for the dawning light.

Advent is a time to wait for comfort in our sorrow.

We wait in hope for the dawning light.

Advent is a time to wait for power in our weakness.

We wait in hope for the dawning light.

Advent is a time to wait for the end of darkness.

We wait in hope for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light the first candle. The candle reminds us that our hope is in Christ, and that God sent Jesus to be the Light of the World. As we begin the journey of Advent, may we learn to wait patiently, with hope and confidence that God's light will one day illuminate our darkened world.

Musical Response

Unison Prayer

God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance and trust. Remind us of your everlasting presence. Fill us with hope for the future and love for humanity. Shower us in your eternal, loving light. Amen.

Assurance

The light of God's love is with us always. And while, like the sun and moon, at times we cannot see its glow or feel its warmth, the light of God's love never truly goes away. So let us not be discouraged but ever searching for the light. Amen.