

# TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 17, 2017  
Second Sunday of Advent  
8:15a 10:30a

*Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!*

*\*denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in **bold print***

This morning we are honored to have as our guest, the Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith, Conference Minister of Penn Central Conference. We appreciate her leadership of our conference and all the ways in which the conference offices offer support and guidance to local churches. Particularly, in the past few months, Conference has been extremely supportive of Trinity's search process for a new settled pastor. But it is through the Conference that we can also reach beyond our local church and support the work of the church in a larger setting. The Penn Central Conference Disaster Relief Team organizes groups to respond to natural disasters such as the hurricanes in the south and Puerto Rico this fall; support goes to a chaplaincy to truckers at large rest stops throughout Pennsylvania; at Hartman Center Church Camp, young people as well as adult groups have the opportunity to learn and to grow in faith and witness. Through the Conference programs are offered to spur new ideas of how local congregations can develop programs and inspire enthusiasm to reach those who are unchurched and discouraged. Clergy and lay leaders are provided resources to become better leaders for local congregations. We are not alone as a congregation, but are supported by UCC churches throughout the Conference to work together to serve Jesus Christ in our local communities. We thank Rev. Dr. Dawkins-Smith for her leadership and her commitment to the life of the churches of Penn Central Conference and appreciate that she is with us this morning to share the good news of God's love in Christ.

PRELUDE – “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” – *M. Sedio*

## TIME OF SHARING

### PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

8:15 – **Don & Cynthia Blevins**

10:30 – **Terry & Ruth Krietz**

It is an age old story that still speaks to us through the centuries.  
**It is a story of power and taxation, of overcrowded housing and  
refugee displacement, of the slaughter of innocents.**

It is a story of love and family, gifts from strangers and  
the awe of the heavens, of individual people saying 'Yes!'

**It is a story of hope being sent to us in unexpected ways that we often deny.**

I will praise you, O Lord. Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known among the nations  
God's mighty deeds, proclaim that the Lord's name is exalted.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Sing to the Lord, for God has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, great is the Holy One among you!

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Today we light three candles. The first candle is the candle of hope.

During Advent we wait in the hope that God's promises will be fulfilled.

The second candle is the candle of peace.

We can have peace because God's preparations have brought forth the fulfillment of the promises.

Today's candle is the candle of joy.

God has given us the waters of salvation! Let us rejoice.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Advent Hymn - **"Star Child"** – *see insert (first three verses)*

Together, let us pray, saying:

**Gracious Lord, as we wait during Advent for the coming of your Son, fill our lives with joy.**

**Fill us with joy because we will draw from the waters of salvation.**

**Fill us with joy at the coming of your Son.**

**And fill us with joy as we serve a world that needs the  
joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN # 120 – "There's A Voice in the Wilderness Crying"**

#### TIME OF CONFESSION

The first step to a wholeness in our lives is the admission that we are broken people.

We find ourselves anxious; we find ourselves living with regrets;  
we hold grudges; we do not live in perfect harmony with others;  
there is a gnawing ache within us that longs for freedom,  
a freedom that only God can give.

So let us join together and confess the longing we have  
to be at one with God, at one with each other, and at one within ourselves.

**Creator and Savior God,  
you have promised that your Son will come again to planet earth,  
bringing this age to an end and ushering in a time of perfection, of life, and of joy.  
Forgive us, we pray, if as we wait we have abused your gifts,  
wasted your resources, hurt your people, and faltered in commitment.  
Pardon us, lift us up, and empower us to be your faithful and loving people.**

Now let us silently reflect on the personal struggles and fears that keep us from being fully free.

**WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY  
Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON  
We receive the Lord's pardon.  
We believe the Lord's promises.  
We treasure the Lord's presence.  
We anticipate the Lord's coming.  
Be assured of God's forgiveness and live in hope.  
Live as a people of hope, making a difference in the world.  
Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.**

**\*HYMN RESPONSE # 13 – "O My Soul, Bless Your Creator" (vs. 1 & 3)  
O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;  
Bless your Maker, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.**

**God forgives all your transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;  
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  
And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God,  
let us confess our faith:**

**We wish to place others before ourselves.  
We wish to place ethics before expediency.  
We wish to rate principle as being more important than pleasure.  
We wish to seek generosity rather than greed.  
We wish to value love as higher than lust.  
We wish to place character before charisma.  
We wish to place Christ before all.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

ANTHEM

“When Will The Little King Come?”

*By Ruth Elaine Schram*

**Senior Choir**

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11    Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55    1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8:30a)    Luke 1:47-55 (10:30a)

**HYMN # 107 – “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

“Expectant Joy”

**Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith**

\* THE PRAYER FOR THE MORNING AND OUR LORD’S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

For we ask it in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying:

**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 sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever. Amen**

PRAYER RESPONSE # 775 - “And God Will Raise You”

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

In receiving we are blessed,  
and in giving we are fulfilled.

*To our visitors - - the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.  
As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew*

*Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!*

OFFERTORY – “Savior of the Nations, Come” – *M. Burkhardt*

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 9 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*(3<sup>rd</sup> verse of the red Christmas Carol book)*

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We are grateful, Holy God, not only for the opportunity to receive,  
but also for the opportunity to give.**

\*CLOSING HYMN – “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” *(see insert) (No Amen)*

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

May you welcome the Lord at his coming  
with a head that is clear,  
with a heart that is pure,  
and with hands that are busy doing God’s work.

POSTLUDE – “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” – *D. Edwards*

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