

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
December 3, 2017  
Holy Communion – First Sunday in 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*

The Christian year traditionally begins with Advent, the season which includes the four Sundays prior to Christmas. Advent means coming or arrival and is the liturgical season when we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child among us. We wait for the birth of Jesus and prepare to receive Jesus into our lives and communities of faith. There are many symbols of waiting in Advent worship. One of the most common is the Advent wreath with four candles in a circle and the larger Christ candle in the center. Each week one more candle is lighted, signifying the approaching gift of God's love. Finally, on Christmas Eve the Christ Candle is illuminated. As we participate in the lighting of the Advent candles each week, we prepare to receive Christ into our lives anew and to be challenged and comforted by the Word Made Flesh living among us. During Advent we praise God joyfully, knowing that The Christ Child still lives among us.

PRELUDE – "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" – *D. Cherwien*

A TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

8:15 – **Tom & Roberta Weiant**

10:30 – **Russell Redding Family**

Friends in Christ, we've come together in this familiar place  
to remind ourselves that we are God's people.

**We've brought with us our hopes and fears, our pain and anger, our gifts and needs.**

Let us reach out from the heart to claim the coming day of Peace,  
the coming of the Good News we so earnestly seek.

**We offer who we are –**

**to God, to one another and to the world that waits in painful hope.**

"The days are coming," says the Lord,

"when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to my people."

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.**

"In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.**

"In those days my people will be saved and my city will live in safety."

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.**

Today we light the first Advent candle. It is the candle of hope. Our hope is based on our trust that God's gracious promise will be fulfilled. We light the candle in hope, looking forward to the time when all of God's people will safely live in God's city.

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.**

ADVENT HYMN - "**Star Child**" - *see insert (sing verse 1 twice)*

Let us pray together, saying: **Gracious Lord, we wait for that time when your promises will be fulfilled. We look forward to all people finding shelter under your Branch. Give us patience and trust as we wait. Help us, O Lord, to share your love and your salvation with others. Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN - "**Watchman, Tell Us of the Night**" - *see insert (no Amen)*

TIME OF CONFESSION

Before the light of God's presence, we seek to cast off the works of the night.

The wrong we embrace and the evil we condone are revealed in the silence.

God knows our intentions and our inner thoughts. Let us turn to God for cleansing.

**Holy God, we know that there are many ways we have failed to build**

**A healthy relationship with you and our fellow human beings. We have ignored your call to be kind and compassionate, to reach out to others with understanding. As we enter this Advent season, may it be our intention to serve you with whole hearts and reflect your love by our words and deeds.**

And now let us confess in silence those fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

**Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In accordance with God's promises, we are granted forgiveness when our confession comes from the heart and is sincere. This is Good News for those who believe.

**Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.**

\*RESPONSE HYMN # 502 - "**Dear God, Embracing Humankind**" (*verses 1 and 2*)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God, let us express our intentions to live as God's people:

**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.**

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” said Jesus, “for you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matter of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.”

*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 – “Come, O Long Expected Jesus” – *C. Callahan*

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 133 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs 3)

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God’s coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We pray for those who benefit from our tithes and offerings.  
Enable them to hear the Good News; help them to grow in faith;  
and sustain them in body, mind, and spirit.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

“Waiting for a King”

**Senior Choir**

*Words by J. Paul Williams*

*Music by Joseph M. Martin*

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 64: 1-9    Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19    I Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

HYMN # 122 - “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This feast is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ  
and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth we recognize  
the fullness of your grace - the breadth and depth of your love -  
the transforming power of your living word.

In grateful thanksgiving we praise you, singing:

**# 795 – Seraphic Hymn**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of the heavenly host;  
heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

And so it is today that we set this table before you -

and remember how on the night of his betrayal -

the eve of his death, when Jesus ate with his disciples

- with those he called his friends - he took bread, and after blessing it

- as we now bless this bread - the fruit of your earth, O God -

he broke it and gave it to them saying "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you."

And we remember too, Jesus took the cup, the cup of blessing, and after giving thanks

- as we now thank you, O God, for this that you give - he passed it to his friends, saying,

"Take and drink, this is my blood, poured out for you, a new covenant for the forgiveness

of sins." Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's

life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again.

**Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may offer ourselves to you and that our lives may  
proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts that all who share in the

bread and this cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.

**In this hope, and as your people, we praise you. Through Christ, with Christ, and in**

**Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.**

We praise and adore you and lay our lives before you.

**Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout our lives, that we may  
know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF WINE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Take them remembering Christ died and was raised for you. Give Christ thanks and praise.  
**In humble and joyous thanksgiving we will receive the body and blood of our Savior.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

\*THE SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give you thanks, Almighty God, for renewing us with your presence. Strengthen us through this sacrament, so that we, like all the saints who have gone before, may share in the presence of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Fortify our faith, increase our love for you and for one another, and send us into the world with courage, hope and peace. Help us always to rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us. For we ask it in the name of the One who reigns forever and ever, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN # 117 – “Lift Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

At the dawn of the new age, whenever it may come, may God find you anticipating, rejoicing, welcoming, serving and loving.

POSTLUDE – “Lift Up Your Heads” – *W. Held*

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