Trinity United Church of Christ

60 East High Street  Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  17325  717-334-7266  www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

tuccgburg@gmail.com

Where God is Still Speaking!
Trinity United Church of Christ
December 5, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent
9:30AM In-Person and Online Worship Service

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

We ask that you wear a mask while in the Church building.
Congregational responses in bold print.
* Denotes standing as you are able.

PRELUDE MUSIC – “Now Bless the God of Israel”- P. Manz

WELCOME/TIME OF SHARING

* CALL TO WORSHIP
Come to us, Jesus Christ.
Come as we search the Scriptures and see God’s hidden purpose.

Come as we walk the lonely road, needing a companion.
Come when life mystifies and perplexes us.
Come into our disappointments and unease.
Come at the table where we share our food and hopes.
Come, open our eyes to recognize you. Amen.

*HYMN #120 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
The Candle of Peace
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
We are God’s gathered people.
And so come to this moment filled with holy hope.
(The candle of Hope is lit)

May justice roll down and peace flow like a mighty river around the world.
May equity be the reality for generations yet to come,
and may peace flow throughout humanity as it did with the One we await.
The One who was sent here, the One who sent us, 
the One whose power never fails.
Peace is possible and we are resolved today to believe.
For if God is for us, then anything we dream can become reality.

We light this candle as we proclaim peace around the world.
We stand together, from one end of the earth to the other,
knowing God is with us.
(The candle of Peace is lit)

PRAYER
Gracious God, we hear the promise of the coming
of Jesus into a manger and into our hearts and homes.
Bless our Advent waiting,
fill our worship with anticipation of your peace;
and dedicate us to prepare your way
by lifting up the valleys in our lives and making
smooth the rough places of others,
for we pray in the name of Emmanuel - God with us. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE SONG  v2 (Insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION
Let us confess those places where we need to grow
to prepare for Christ to come into our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God, we often discover ourselves lost in the wilderness.
We have made our choices, and chosen wrong,
and the result is a long, lonely, terrifying journey in a cold land.
We can find no friends there, save the voices of those we have left behind.
We are afraid, and we call out for your love.
Forgive us, God!
And lead us back to your grace. Amen.
(Moment of Silent Reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
God hears all our prayers, even those that come from afar.
Have faith and rejoice in the forgiveness we find there. Amen.
ANTHEM
"Emmanuel"
Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig
Music by Don Besig
Senior Choir

SCRIPTURES
Malachi 3:1-4
See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 1:58-79
"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

SERMON
"Peace, Light and Preparing!"

PRAYER/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 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, forever. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
We believe that God has come to us;
that God brought us into being,
that this God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment,
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.
We believe that God is coming to us;
that God is not happy to leave us alone,
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.
We believe that God will come to us;
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect “Alleluia!”

CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS
God gladly meets us half way when we remember to do good works. Every time we offer up
our gifts, we are sharing in that wondrous gift we have been given in Christ.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE
“As with Gladness Men of Old” v3
As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav’nly king.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
When we have drowned ourselves in bad behaviors, God has forgiven us.
When we turn our faces from God’s healing, we are not thrust away.
And when we do as much as we can to help others, our generosity
does not go unnoticed. Thanks be to God. Amen.
HYMN #121 “All Earth is Waiting”

FINAL BLESSING


Portions of today’s worship elements have been taken from the following:

Affirmation of Faith: Permission is given for use in congregational worship.
"Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - www.stephenmfearing.com"

Hymns - There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying. Words: J. Lewis Milligan (1923); Music: ASCENSION, H. Hugh Bancroft, © 1938.
Advent Candle Song. Words and Music by Arthur Clyde © 1987 Augsburg Fortress
Postlude - Hark! The Glad Sound. Setting by Paul Manz. © 1990 Morning Star Music Publisher

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Special thanks to today’s worship participants:
Rev. Dr. Frederick Young
Nancy MacMeekin
John McKay
Jane Eiker
Ruby Warren and Lisa Burt
Jen Mickelson and Bonnie Smith
Buck Harvey
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes. George Steckert
Carl Barrick, Sue Churchill, Russell Bailey, Stacy Rushwald, and Rayna Cooper

Pastor
Lay Liturgist
Choir Director
Organist
Greeters
Ushers
Acolyte
Tech Team
There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Isa. 40:3-11; Ps. 103:15-17

J. Lewis Milligan, 1925; alt.

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:

2 O Zion, who offers good tidings, to the height of the mountains dare!

3 But the word of our God is forever, our Defender's will is strong; God stands in the midst of high way, a highway for our God! The

Ju - dah: "Behold your God!" declare. Like the nations, to render right the wrong. Then

Before moving to Canada, J. Lewis Milligan was a successful British journalist and poet. This text was written in 1925 to celebrate the union of three churches into The United Church of Canada, a body he served as public relations director.

Tune: ASCENSION Iris H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938
valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought
flowers of the field we perish, our human works decay,
God shall be as a shepherd, the lambs gathered to God's breast;
and pastures of peace shall greet them,

make straight all the crooked places
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

where Emmanuel may go!
to give to the weary rest.
Toda la Tierra
(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6; Matt. 1:23

Unison

D

D/F♯

Em

A7

D

F♯m

1 To-da la tie-rra es-pe-ra al Sal-va-dor
defy el sur-co-a-bier-to, la
1 All earth is waiting to see the Prom-ised One,
thus says the proph-et to those of Is-ra-el,

2 Di-ce el pro-fe-ta al pue-blo de Is-ra-el:
"De ma-dre vir-gen ya
2 Thus says the proph-et to those of Is-ra-el,
"A vir-gin moth-er will

o-bra del Crea-dor; es el mun-do que lu-chas por la li-ber-tad,
Die-nos Em-ma-nuel," se-rá
sow-ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true li-ber-ty;
bear Em-man-u-el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav-ior shall be,

re-cia-ma jus-ti-cia y bus-ca la ver-dad. (4 dar-nos li-ber-tad.)
con él la es-pe-ran-za al mun-dos vol-ve-rá. (4 brings us lib-er-ty.)
it cries out for jus-ti-cie and search-es for the truth,
through whom hope will blos-som once more with-in our hearts.

Alberto Taulé, composer and author of this new Advent hymn,
has served as a parish priest and music editor for the Roman
Catholic Church in Spain. This hymn was his first to be
published in the United States.

Tune: TAULE 11.11.12.12.

Alberto Taulé, 1972
Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988
3 Mon-tés y va-lles
    ha-brá que pre-pa-rar,
    nue-vos ca-mi-nos
    te-ne-mos que tra-zar.
Dios es-tá ya muy cer-ca,
    ve-nid-lo a en-con-trar,
    y to-das las puer-tas
    a-brid de par en par.

3 Moun-tains and val-leys will
    have to be made plain;
    o-pen new high-ways,
    new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer,
    so come all and see,
    and o-pen the door-ways
    as wide as wide can be.

4 En un pe-se-bre
    Je-sús a-pa-re-ció,
    pe-ro en el mun-do
    es-tá pre-sen-te hoy.
Vi-ve en-tre la gen-te,
    con e-las es-tá;
    y vuel-ve de nue-vo
    a dar-nos li-ber-tad.

4 In low-ly sta-ble
    the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
    yet feel that pre-sence
    through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians
    and is with us now;
    a-gain, on ar-riv-ing
    Christ brings us lib-er-ty.