



SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

11/28/2021

WELCOME

Welcome to Trinity Reformed UCC, where all are welcome, especially those who are single, married, widowed, divorced, rich, middle-class, poor, LGBTQIA+ (or not), living nearby or far away. No matter where you were born, what language you speak, your skin color, ethnicity, culture, ability, or disability, we welcome you. We also want you to know that we love crying newborns, active toddlers, kids, youths, adults, and seniors, and people who are thick, thin, short, tall, or in between. We welcome you whether you can sing high, sing low, sing only in the shower, try to sing, or if you cannot carry a tune in a bucket (our pastor can't either). You're welcome if you are a first-time visitor, have been here before, are a member, or if you do not really know why/what/who brought you here. We welcome You if you attend church weekly, sometimes, rarely, never, or if this your first time ever. We welcome you if you are baptized, aren't baptized, don't know, or don't even know what that means. We extend a special welcome to you if you have been hurt by Church and hope you will find nothing but love here. Please know that we welcome you with all your questions and doubts, beliefs, disbeliefs, and unbelief. In short:

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey: You are welcome here.

Period.

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

ONSITE

Sunday Worship // 9:30 AM
Sunday School 2nd and 4th Sunday 8:30 a.m.

ONLINE

Sunday Worship // 9:30 AM
at tinyurl.com/trinf & tinyurl.com/TrinYT
& on our website.



See our website for more info!

TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

532 East Main Street // Collegeville, PA 19426

PHONE: (610)489-4223 **WEB:** TrinityUCCCollegeville.org

CHURCH EVENTS

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

3rd SUNDAY after Worship

Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments on 12/19.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 20, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

Meeting online via zoom

Meeting ID 6104894223

Password Trinity

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne E. Schwarz-Green
Summer Pianists: Carolyn Santoro, Mike Ruhl
Cherub, Junior & Chancel Choirs: Carolyn Santoro
Chime, Youth Bell & Adult Bell Choirs: Cindy Golden

The liturgical color of Advent is blue. The blue paraments used today are dedicated to the memory of E. R. "Barney" Forrest by Kitty Forrest. The banners in the sanctuary were sewn and donated by Amy Overholtzer.

NEW OR FIRST TIME HERE?

Thank you for choosing to worship here today. We are blessed by your presence. If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to be on our email list, please let one of the ushers know and/or fill out one of the visitor cards located in the pews.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children are always welcome at Trinity. We do not currently offer a staffed nursery; however, greeters can provide you with an activity pad for your child. If you require a space to care for your child's needs, an usher can help point you to the nursery.

THANK YOU

Altar Flowers: Lynne Paul - In loving memory of my husband, Walter Paul
Ushers: Earl Hallman
Greeters: Nick Vlasisavljevic
Reader: Cindy Golden

Prayer Box

Please include the following individuals/causes to your daily prayers this week:

Special Requests: Connie, (Mother of daughter-in-law of Sherry W.) • Connie D. • Bill D. & family (Brother of Lynne P) • Jim K. (son-in-law of Anne U., cancer) • Kate & Baby (friend of Cheryl & Earl) • Jer and Whitney (friends of Heather W.) • Lindsay J. & Family (friends & neighbors of the Snowden Family) • Family of Lynne M. (friend of Pastor, who died of leukemia) • Linda J. (for the loss of her mother Virginia Lee C.)

Ongoing Requests: Lois G. • Peggy B. (friend of Karolyn M.) • Hubie B. • Leslie H. • Joan R. • Flo S. • Josephine R. • Ron H. (friend of Earl & Cheryl H) • Bill (father-in-law of Deb S.) • Nera K. (Aunt of Nick V.) • Brent & family, and Dick (nephew, brother of Deb S.) • Mary Ellen & Glenn D.



Order of Worship

November 28, 2021 – First Sunday in Advent

PRELUDE

MIKE RUHL

WORDS OF WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?
We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.
Yes, we are homesick—
for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.
We are homesick for the world God promises.
We are homesick, but we are on our way.
God is here. God is still creating.
Let us worship Holy God!

CANDLE LIGHTING

A: We hope for a world where all are fed.
B: We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.
A: We hope for a world with wide open doors.
B: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.
A: We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.
B: We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies,
in the church, in their physical homes.
A: We hope for that world.
B: We long for that world.
A: We are homesick for that world.
B: So today we light the candle of hope
because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.
(the first, blue candle is lit)
A: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.
B: We are close to home. May we carry hope with us.
All: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you. Sometimes, that's what love looks like. Love bails us out.

In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we have messed up or forgotten something or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace. God answers with love.

So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

(Moment of silent contemplation, confession, and prayer)

All: Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day— to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. Hear and trust this good news:

All: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN NCH 117 "LIGHT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES" (Vs. 1-3)

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES *(All disciples remain in the pews)*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: God of the stars and God of our hearts— our days will pass but your words will last. The earth might fade but your words will last. Our memories might blur but your words will last. The grass will wither but your words will last. The sky could go dark and your words would last. So as we listen today, help us to hold onto what will last. Help us hold onto you. Gratefully we pray, amen.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Epistle
Gospel

Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

HOMESICK

HYMN

NCH 122

“COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS” (VS. 1, 3 & 4)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

L: Family of faith, it does not take long to see that we are not home yet. People are hungry, oceans are polluted, churches are fading, walls are growing. Clearly, we are not home yet. So, until we reach that promised day, until we make it home, giving what we can to make a better world matters. When we give our tithes and our offerings we help build God’s home here. So with hopeful hearts, let us give.

(YOU MAY GIVE ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE OR BY PLACING YOUR OFFERING IN THE OFFERING PLATE AT THE SANCTUARY ENTRANCE.)



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please see bulletin insert)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm.
Now send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARTING HYMN

NCH 81

“GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN” (FIRST VERSE)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

L: As you leave this service, your service begins:
Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary.
Be brave enough to go home by another way.
And remember that here in God’s house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.
In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

MIKE RUHL

**Congregation may stand.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Reminder – Sunday School will only be on the 2nd Sunday for the month of December.

Advent Communion

Invitation

P: We are gathered here onsite and online to share the bread and cup in communion. This table is but a representation of the many tables set today. As we gather here today in the sight of God to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion, know that while we may all be at different tables, the action at table is the ultimate symbol of unity. God transcends our physical distances and parts the veil between us, so that – onsite or online - we may be together as one in this mystery and this mystical space. Through God and the mystery of Holy Communion, we become one creation, one body, one church. This table is not our table but it is God’s table; therefore, this table is open for all of God’s children to receive grace, love, and hope. Let us ready ourselves for this holy meal.

C: **Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to God.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new and when we have finally arrived home. With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

(Holy, Holy, Holy” #522 – BLUE Hymnal under pew in front of you)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy Glory’
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

The Story Remembered

P: We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember that before he gave himself up, Jesus gathered at a table in an upper room with the Apostles and, after the meal, when the hour had come, he said to them, I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Then he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it to them saying:

C: Take, eat, all of you. This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, do so in remembrance of me.

P: Likewise, after the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

C: This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me.

P: And so, with thanks and praise, we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: "Come Lord Jesus, Come" even as we proclaim the mystery of our faith

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

The Spirit Transforms

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us - this bread, this cup, these people— Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord. Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord! Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Hear us as we pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

The Breaking and Pouring

P: The Bread we break is the Bread of Life. (the Bread is broken)

The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise (the cup is poured)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith, and for the sake of the world

We Receive

P: The body of Christ, given for you. (take the bread and eat it)

P: The blood of Christ, given for you. (drink of the cup)

(Please return to the regular bulletin for the Prayer of Thanksgiving)

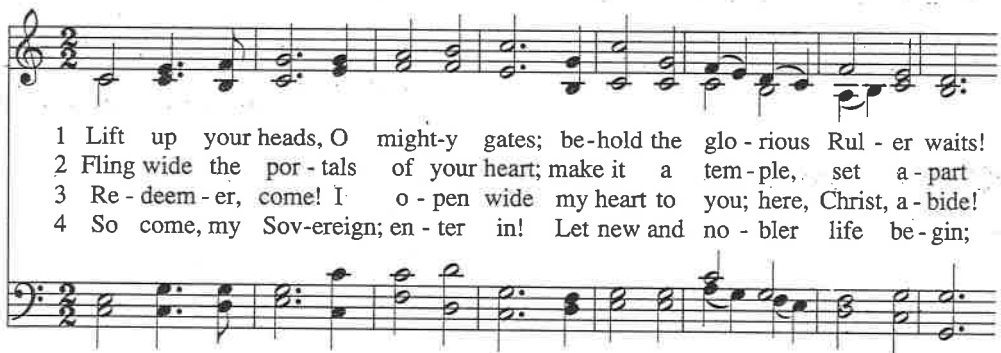
Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

117

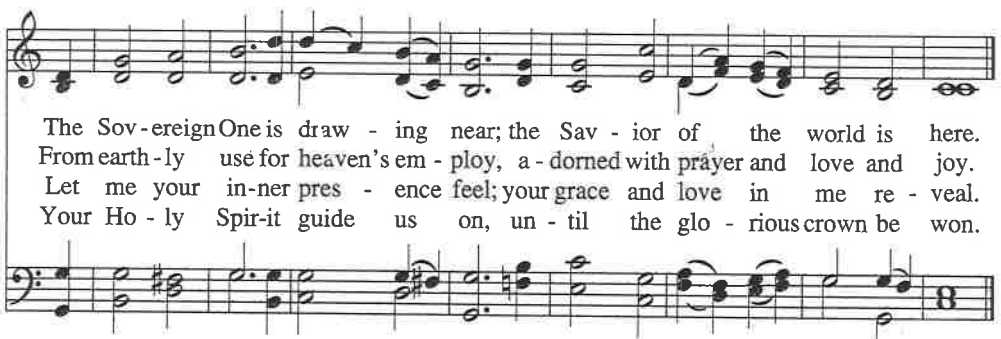
Georg Weissel, 1641

Ps. 24:7-10

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous Rul-er waits!
2 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple, set a-part
3 Re-deem-er, come! I o-pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a-bide!
4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler life be-gin;



The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.
From earth-ly use for heaven's em-ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in-ner pres-ence feel; your grace and love in me re-veal.
Your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be won.

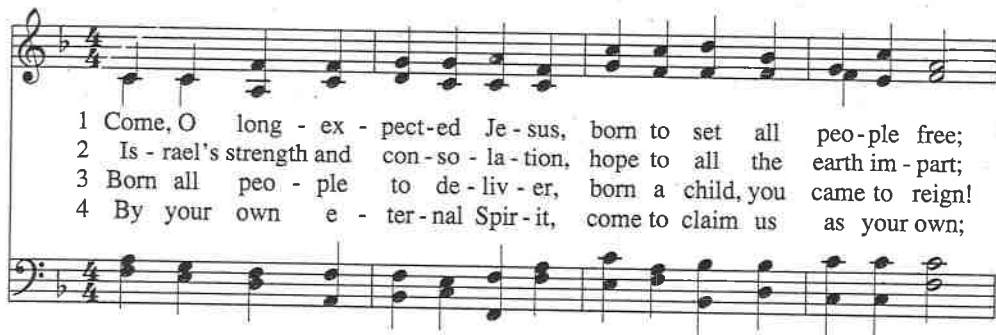
Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

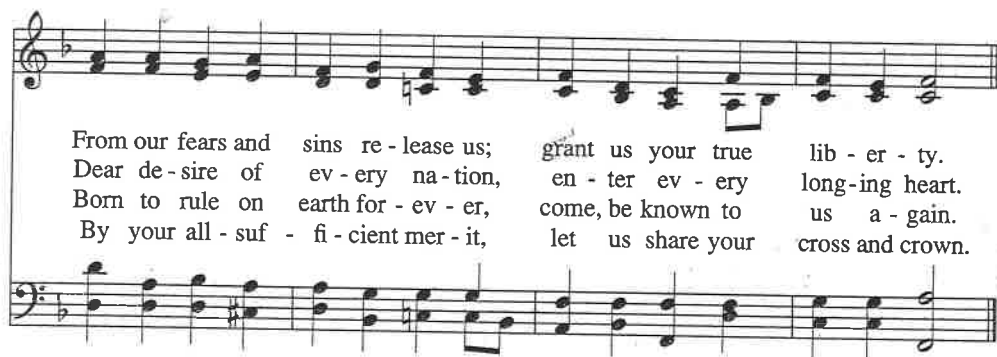
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)
from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

God Be with You

81

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,

With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Dai - ly man - na still pro-vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,

till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain
William G. Tomer, 1880

Christmas Poinsettias

Traditionally, the church sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias for Christmas Eve Services. If you would like to order a poinsettia plant/s to decorate our sanctuary, please complete the attached form and, along with your payment, place it in the offering or return it to the Church Office by, December 19th.



The cost of each poinsettia plant is \$11.00.

Make checks payable to "Trinity Reformed UCC" and note "Poinsettia Order" in the memo field and enclose the "2021 Poinsettia Order Form". You may bring home your poinsettia/s between December 26th and January 9th.



Cut here and submit with your payment

2021 Poinsettia Order Form

Number of Plants: _____ x \$11.00 = _____

Given by: _____

(please print)

In memory of: _____

(Optional)

(please print)

OR

In honor of: _____

(Optional)

(please print)



Christmas at



Bethany Children's Home

The mission of Bethany Children's Home is to continue an open and affirming Christian ministry, begun in 1863, to serve children and families within their care. Bethany strives to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid their residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future. Bethany's vision is of a community where all youth and team members are safe in their environment and feel safe within themselves. To bring this vision into reality, Bethany provides the resources needed to children and families to work through their losses, enabling them to have a brighter future.

Trinity has supported Bethany for many years. Please help us to continue this tradition.

To keep the gift giving as safe and easy as possible, Trinity has begun a CHARITY WISH LIST on Amazon. On the list you will find items requested by Bethany for the children and youths. Items include games, books, crafts, sports, and cottage needs.

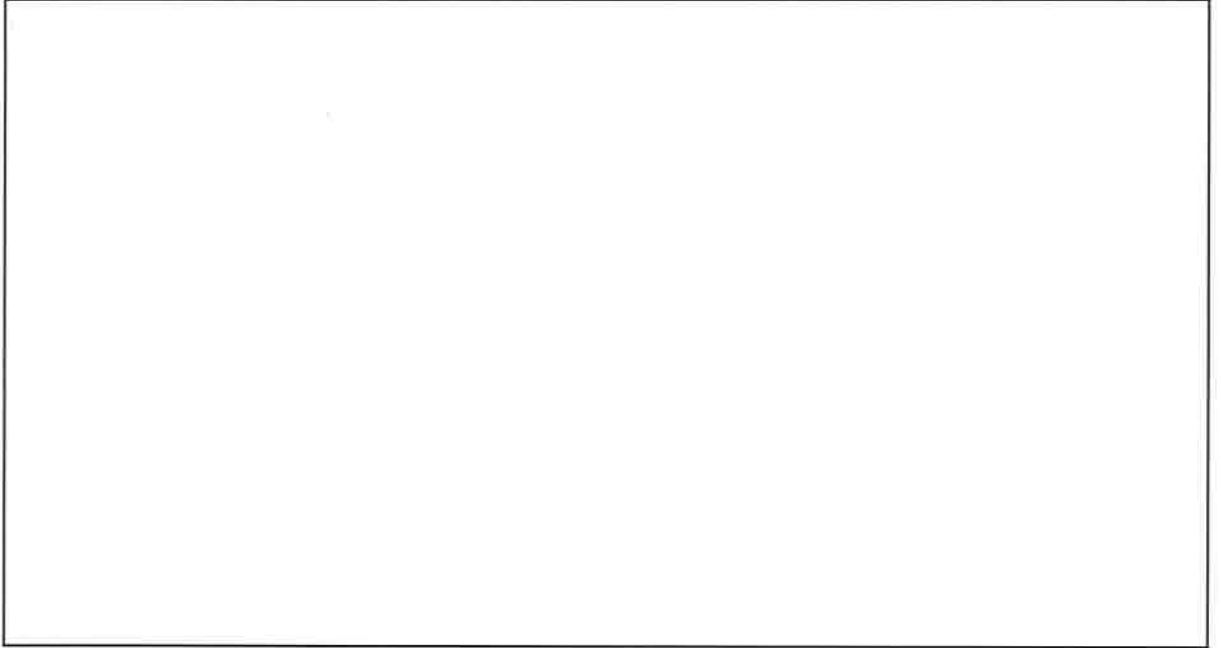
Bethany youth are 10-21 years of age. Age-appropriate gifts are requested with consideration of parental warning, modesty and safety. These gifts include bedding and bath needs, clothing for teen girls and boys, educational and recreational items, music and art education. to name a few. To see the complete list and gifts, please go to:

<https://amz.run/4ziL>

Items will be shipped to Trinity and dropped off all at once to make it easier and safer for the volunteers and staff at Bethany. You may, of course, also shop elsewhere and bring your donations to church. Donations need to be received by Trinity no later than December 10th. Thank you to everyone that is able to give. Bethany Children's Home appreciates your kindness and generosity!

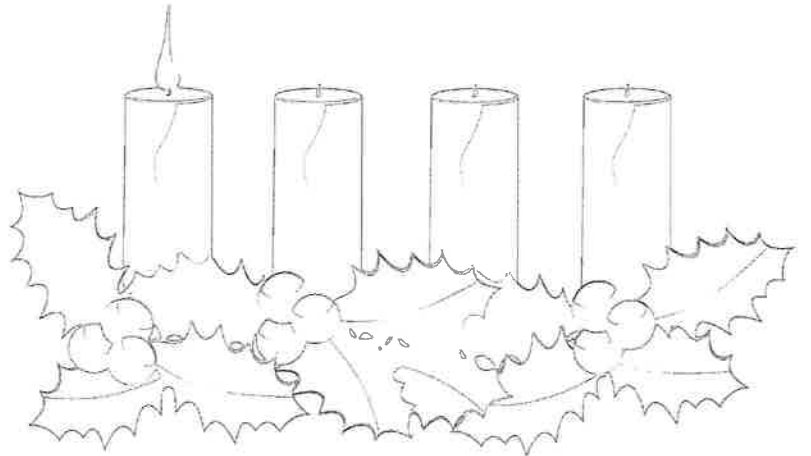
For The Young & Young At Heart

Write a letter or draw a picture for someone you miss seeing and consider mailing it to them as a way of saying "I miss you". (If you are a kid, have a grown up help you if you want to mail it).



Today is the First Sunday in Advent. Advent means "arrival" or "coming." It is a season of expectation and hope. Today we are lighting the candle of HOPE.

The traditional color for Advent is blue. If you want, you can color and decorate the candles to the right.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

November 28, 2021

Luke 21:25-36

Sign of Things to Come *United Black Christians Anniversary*

"Til Love Comes is the first single on Tracy Howe's album, "Things That Grow", available at tracyhowemusic.com. On this first Sunday of Advent, these inspiring words are a prophetic reminder of the universe-transforming power of the incarnation, the coming of the Christ Child. You can find more of Tracy's music, including a link to a video of this song, at tracyhowemusic.com.

We will march on, will fight on
'Til love comes

If you cut into beauty
and try to make it bleed
you only find a deeper hope
and what makes a person free
the depths of love
come from where we've been
redeemed

So put down your guns
and unlock the prison doors
You can keep all your money;
give yourselves to the poor
learn to love
Building a world of grace

We will march on, will fight on
'Til love comes

You might make your words a weapon
and build power out of fear
But it's your own self breaking and
fading away in the mirror

Because love
Is writing the song

And the mystery of suffering is the life
that comes from pain
And the hope we share holds it -
gives it a name
All in love
We carry on

We will march on, will fight on
'Til love comes

We gave our lives to this fight,
we gave our lives
If we fall it will be alright,
if we fall it will be alright
Our bodies wrapped in dust,
will tell the tale of both of us
I who heard your cry for help,
and you who lived for someone else

We will march on, will fight on
'Til love comes

Copyright © 2021 Tracy Howe. Used by permission.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2021 United Church of Christ