

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

***“I Love You with the Love of the Lord”***

(Please join hands as we sing)

***Oh, I love you with the love of the Lord.***

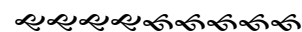
***Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.***

***I can see in you the glory of my King,***

***and I love you with the love of the Lord.***

\* POSTLUDE

“”



**Bell Ringers Needed:** There is a signup sheet in the narthex for Trinity’s very own day of bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Our day is Wednesday, December 7. Sign up early to get “your pick” of time slots. You can sign up individually, with a friend or as a family. Please also jot down a phone number for a reminder call.

**On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>,** our annual Advent Workshop will be held following worship with a meal and crafts. The meal will consist of sloppy joes, veggie trays, chips and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring a plate of cookies to share and their own place settings. Crafts will follow the meal. Samples of all the crafts are available in the back entryway. Please sign up if your plan to make a craft so that enough materials can be made available. Any questions should be directed to members of the Koinonia Board.

**Dear Trinity United Church of Christ Members,** We have adopted a family of 4 from the Salvation Army for Christmas. A tree with their gift wishes is in the back entrance and there is a can in the narthex if you would like to donate money to help purchase items or the Christmas dinner. Please make your donations or bring gifts to the Church by Dec. 8th. Thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions please ask Kelly Weber.

**Drop-N-Shop!** Hey Mom and Dad, do you need more time this holiday season? The Board of Christian Education is hosting a “Drop-N-Shop” from **5:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 9th!** Parents are welcome to drop off their children, ages 2 and up. We will be enjoying pizza and fun activities while you get some shopping done! A minimum donation of \$5.00 (per family) is requested to cover the cost of food. Any additional money will be used for the family we adopted through the Salvation Army.

**FISH Tree for Teens:** Note the early deadline of Dec. 8 for the Fish tree. New, unwrapped gifts should be placed at the back entry tree. Gift cards & donations to FISH go to church office.

**Poinsettias are now on sale.** You may purchase them before and after worship in the narthex. The price is \$14.00 for red or white; payment is expected with the order. Help us decorate our sanctuary for the holiday season.

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

Mark 13:24-37

LONGING

Our journey through the church year begins with Advent. And though we might like to begin with shouts and acclamation, a hearty “happy new year,” there is something entirely different about this beginning. Our year begins, as does the spiritual life, with longing, a deep yearning for a better day:

Awash in seas of injustice, or wars and rumors of wars, we long for peace and justice in human life, in our communities and among the nations of the world.

As we journey through our cities and towns on cold, dark nights we see people seeking food; families in need seeking shelter and rest; children, cold, seeking warmth. Our longing becomes a cry: How long O Lord? How long?

As we move inward we meet our restless hearts. Facing ourselves we see that somehow we have settled into spiritual arrhythmia, a rhythm of life that cannot sustain. But it is here, too, that we meet our longing, knowing that somehow, in the deep down of life, there is a pulse, a beat that engenders, nurtures and loves all that is.

With this deep longing, you would think that there is something we can do to fix things—bending and turning things aright. But we know that as we bend and turn things around, things often get twisted. Not only are the best things in life -- peace, love, hope, joy -- free, they are a pure gift: the gift that we receive in the advent, in the coming of Jesus Christ. No bending, no twisting called for or needed. What are we to do? We wait. We wait in our deep longing. How long, O God?

Advent is also a time of promise. The light will come. God will break through into human life, into your life. Beyond the horizon of all hope, Bethlehem, the stable, shepherds and angels tell us: the love of God is embodied in Jesus Christ. As we receive Christ our hearts pulse with the steady rhythm of life. God’s mercy becomes our own. We come to embody Christ’s love in our very human lives. In this we find that the One who has come, Jesus Christ, comes again and again. Not only is there a second coming, there is the continual coming of love into the world. Thanks be to God.

Rev. David Parks-Ramage  
First Congregational UCC  
Santa Rosa, CA

**Committee chairs please note:** Annual reports are due in the church office on December 11! No exceptions! Thank you for your cooperation.



*Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship*

November 27, 2011

10:30 A.M.

\* Those who are able are invited to stand “Black” New Century Hymnal (NCH)  
“Red” Evangelical & Reformed Hymnal (E & R)

Please wear your nametag in worship.

Please fill-out the pew register (including children!) and pass it down the pew. At the end of the row pass it back and note the names of those who are sharing your pew so that you might greet them after worship.

Please note prayer requests on the cards found in your pew and pass to the center aisle during the first hymn.

A nursery is available during worship for ages 0-2. We also have a beginners’ room for ages 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade). Please contact an usher for directions if necessary.

*We Enter*

WELCOME /ANNOUNCEMENTS

RJ Nagy

CHORAL INTROIT

PRELUDE

*“Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.”*  
(Psalm 80.7)

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Days of heavy clouds stifling the sunlight the world burdened by greyness and gloom.

C: **Open our eyes, Lord to the coming of your light lifting the burden of darkness from our lives.**

L: Chillness that seeps deep into bones, hearts, and spirits rigid with frost-hardness souls wrapped up against coldness and loneliness.

C: **Open our souls, Lord, to the warmth of your coming melting the hardness that keeps us from you and from each other.**

L: Trees – branches bare against the steel skies stems crumpled under weight of frost – weight of snow last year’s leaves – blackened and slippery underfoot - nature oppressed by wintriness – yet resting – awaiting rebirth.

C: **Cherish our hearts, Lord, oppressed by wintriness – assure us of your coming of your call to new life.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 104 NCH  
*"We Hail You God's Anointed"*

\* OPENING PRAYER  
**God of our tomorrows, as we enter the Season of Advent, let this be a season that is more than hustle and bustle, make it more for us than a time of buying and selling, more than a time of worrying and of celebrating. Make it for us a time of true blessedness, a time in which we pray and share your love with others, a time in which we turn to your word and speak hope to those who despair. Amen.**

\* THE GLORIA 756 NCH  
*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: We shall place this Advent candle ring, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope.

**Cong: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

L: Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

**C: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

L: In Isaiah, chapter 2, the prophet declares that in days to come God will judge between the nations, and arbitrate for many peoples.

We light this candle because we refuse to let go of Isaiah's hope and that swords can be beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks, and that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**C: Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

Hymn 116, v.1 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*We Hear the Word*

CHIMES (The children may come to the front during the playing of the chimes.)

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Rev. Doty

PSALTER p. 672 NCH

*We Lift Our Praise and Prayer*

ANTHEM *"Oh, Come Oh, Come Emmanuel"* Young

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Walking in the light of the coming Savior, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who await God's justice.

*(Brief silence)*

Like a potter working clay, shape and mold our church leaders into vessels fit to serve your people and the world according to your purpose.. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

Congregational Prayer Response (throughout)

L: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray. saying,

**C: Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE 125 NCH

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION 109 NCH

*"With Joy Draw Water"*, vvs. 1-3

*We Hear the Lesson of the Day*

\* PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Make us to know your ways, O Lord;

**C: teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long. Amen.**

\* THE LESSON Jeremiah 33.14-16 pew Bible, p. 724

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

SERMON *"Shoots of Tomorrow"* Rev. Doty

*We Respond*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ""

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE 780 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of promise, You who cause the branch of hope to bud and flower; we offer you the fruit of our labor and the sacrifice of our hearts. May what we do bring reassurance to those seeking evidence of Your goodness. Use us and our gifts as signs of what deliverance can mean, we ask it in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and our Savior. Amen.**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION See  
insert

*We Go Forth*

\*CLOSING HYMN 110 NCH

*"Now Bless the God of Israel"*

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"I Love You with the Love of the Lord"*  
(Please join hands as we sing)  
*Oh, I love you with the love of the Lord.  
Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.  
I can see in you the glory of my King,  
and I love you with the love of the Lord.*

\* POSTLUDE ""

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

(Tune: O, Come All Ye Faithful)

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And with you, His servant.**

L: Come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

**P: With hearts uplifted; Thanks to God we render;  
With joy we come before You,  
In gratefulness implore You,  
With thankful hearts adore You, Evermore.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!**

**Heav'n and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!**

**Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh**

**In the name of God the king! Hallelujahs glad we sing:**

**Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord to You!**

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
... as we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
... all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

(Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

**Our Father, God, to you we pray Most holy be Your name.**

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth -- in heav'n the same.**

**Give us this day the food we need; Forgiven may we be;**

**Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; blest it be In grateful love we bow;  
and Yours the pow'r; o God, we see Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours' Your praise be sung by angel host and men  
in ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.**

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**Worship**, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. First Sunday Advent.

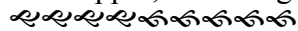
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**AA**, 7:30 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday **Wee Twos**, 9:30 a.m. in the Beginners Room.  
Thursday **Wee Twos**, 9:30 a.m. in the Beginners Room.  
**Bell Choir Practice**, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.  
**Trinity Choir Practice**, 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room.  
**AA**, 8:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall.

Friday **Volunteer Open House**, 2:00 p.m. in the Library.  
Saturday **Hanging of the Greens**, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Next Sunday **Sunday School**, 9:15 a.m.  
**Birthday Party for Jesus**, during worship.  
**Worship**, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Second Sunday of Advent.  
**Advent Lunch & Workshop**, following worship.

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 11 - Annual Reports Due.  
December 11 - Mission Lunch  
December 11 - All Church Caroling, 4:00 p.m.  
December 18 - Concert Series, Dan Doty, soloist, Crèche Walk  
December 18 – Spaghetti Supper, following concert.



Thank you to:

**Debbie Lorincz**, member of Church & Ministry for bringing the announcements.  
**Melanie McIntyre**, our liturgist today.  
**RJ Nagy**, our head usher for November.  
**Allison Vaccaro and Taylor Nagy**, today’s acolytes.  
**Dave & Sue Clecker**, for providing the altar flowers in honor of **Loved Ones**.  
**Marge Hevener and Pam Butler**, our greeters this morning.  
**Kelly Daw**, our beginner’s volunteer today and **Joanne Stano**, our nursery volunteer today.



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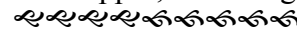
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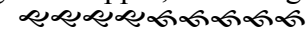
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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert C. Johnson  
Director of Music: Ann Hudson  
Organist: Dale Guiley, AGO, Honorary Minister of Music  
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