

## RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

### **Invitation to Offering:** – *Discipleship Resources*

In response to the news that she would bear God's Son, Mary offered herself as God's servant, and then sang a song celebrating her selection to help bring God's realm on earth. We have been chosen to continue to build up the kingdom of God, so we, too, have reason to celebrate. Having praised God through song and scripture, let us now offer our tangible signs of gratitude, confident that God's promises will be fulfilled through the ministries supported by our gifts.

**Offertory Anthem:** "O Loving Father of the Stars" J. M. Martin

**Doxology** UMH #94

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" TFWS# 2098

### **Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Prelude and Fugue in C" W. Zachow

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### **We thank those who participated in today's service:**

**Acolytes:** Mason Hedeem, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

**Altar Ministry:** Julie Calhoun

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Fellowship Hour:** Stewardship & Finance and Membership & Evangelism

**Liturgist:** Brenda Sheldon

**Poinsettias:** Arranged by Lee Vaughn (see insert)

**Ushers:** Head Usher; Lisa Bakowski, Asst. Head Usher; Sheila Womble, Jacki Barden, Ginger Elliott, Deb Garth, David Jenney

**Video Team:** Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

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### ***Please Pray for:***

Mary A, Lisa B, Borys B, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Jean C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C, Benard D, Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Mary (T) G, Courtney H, Aurie I, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Jane T M, Holly Joy P, Sue P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Henry (Bing) S, Jane S, Thomas S, Carl S, Lynn T, Alison (Allie) W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

## **Trinity United Methodist Church**

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

[www.trinityspringfield.org](http://www.trinityspringfield.org) ▪ 413-737-5311

*Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton*

*District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe*

*Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun*

*Director of Music Ministries, Anthony Lamourt*

*Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell, M.Div*

*Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern*



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.*

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**Celebrate** God's love

**Nurture** relationships with God and one another

**Serve** our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

### WELCOME

*We worship using this liturgy and two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) and The Faith We Sing (TFWS). Please silence your electronic devices. Nursery care is downstairs for children birth - 4 years. \*Please stand in body or in spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.*

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

“You could more easily catch a hurricane in a shrimp net than you can understand the wild, relentless, passionate, uncompromising, pursuing love of God made present in the manger” – Ann Voskamp

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** “Noël Nouvelet” arr. Barbara Kinyon

### Moment of Reflection

**Introit:** “Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming” Harm. M. Praetorius

### \*Call to Worship: – Discipleship Ministries

Leader: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

**People: We wait as people of God's promise.**

Leader: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

**People: We listen as people of God's promise.**

Leader: Mary's “yes” and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

**People: We follow as people of God's promise.**

Leader: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

**People: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

\***Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” UMH# 234

### \*Unison Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace. Amen.

### \*Words of Assurance: – Ministry Matters

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls rejoice in God. **Amen!**

\***Response:** “We Are One In The Spirit” TFWS# 2223 (v.4)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

**Choir Anthem:** “Count Your Blessings”

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle:** Gretchen Dubbs, Christine Spelman and family

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Children's Moment**

**Pastoral Prayer, Joys and Concerns**

**The 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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.

**Prayer Response**

\***Hymn:** “Star Child” TFWS# 2095  
*(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)*

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1: 39-45 (NRSV) N.T. p. 53

**Response to the Word:**

**One:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many:** Thanks be to God!

**The Word in Reflection:** “God With Us” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun