

*Sunday Communion Worship*      *December 2, 2018*  
*Theme of the Month: Hope*

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, that sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.” – Emily Dickinson

**Welcome**

**Candlelighters** – members of the Diaconate

**Prelude:** “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem,” Arr. L. Shackley

**Liturgist: Randy Foster**

**Call to Worship**

One: Inside our souls is a spark of hope; it is sometimes hidden but never absent.

**Many: We are waiting for something wonderful.**

One: Hope leaves the door open for miracles. Hope never dies because hope is of God.

**Many: We are waiting for something wonderful.**

One: All things are possible but first things first. We must sweep the hearth of our inner lives; we must prepare for beauty, for life, for hope.

**Many: We are waiting for something wonderful. We will do what it takes to recover our hope. Let us worship in truth and light!**

**\*Opening Hymn:** NCH#117 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

**\*Gathering Prayer:** God of love and life, We embark today on a journey of hope. We hope for love. We hope for joy. We hope for peace. Let us step up and be counted for what is missing, in our lives and in our world. Let us speak out when called for. Let us keep silence when necessary. Let us forgive and acknowledge what is in need of forgiveness. Let us narrow the gap between our experience and the presence of real hope in our hearts and in the hearts of everyone. Amen

**\*Gloria Patri: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

**First Advent Candle** – Suzan Smith, Chris Hamlin

**Advent Song** – NCH#122 Come, O Long-Expected Jesus, vs. 1

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory Music**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God for all that Love has done, Creator, Christ and Spirit One.*

**Special Music:** “Follow the Shepherd Home” by Mindy Smith.  
Chris Hamlin, Patter Field and Ted Thornton

**Scripture: Luke 1:5-23**

**Communion Message**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Invitation, Words of Communion**

**Communion Hymn:** NCH#553 “There is a Balm in Gilead”

**Sharing the Bread and Cup** – *All are welcome to partake*

**Unison Communion Prayer** Gracious God, You have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Send us forth to be your people, with strength to persevere in all circumstances, so that we might be the Good News to a world in need of your amazing grace. In Jesus’ name, we pray, Amen.

**Joys & Concerns**

**Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord 2x, Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

**Silent, Pastoral and Lord’s Prayer (sins)**

**Announcements**

**\*Sending Hymn:** NCH#146 Glad Tidings

**\*Benediction**

\*Please rise in body or spirit. Your presence is a gift to us - Following worship, we invite you to join us in the lounge for a delicious coffee hour and time for socializing. Have a wonderful week and come back very soon!

**Altar Flowers**

**Greeters** - members of the Diaconate

**Candlelighters** – members of the Diaconate

**Liturgist:** Randy Foster

**Coffee Hour** - Kathy Wright

Please join us for refreshments and conversation after the service.

**Bible Dig** continues on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm – 7 pm in the Lounge. If you would like to help, please see Pastor Julie. Supper provided. Bible stories, crafts & song for children 5 and older.

**Church Office hours** are Tues. Wed. and Thurs. 9 – 2 pm

Christmas Pageant and all church Brunch – Come dressed as part of the Nativity. This is an all congregation event. Our Bible Dig children will sing. Be sure to sign up to bring something to the brunch. Signup sheet is in the Lounge. You are invited to bring a wrapped gift with your name on the inside (\$5.00 limit, please). Each one will choose a gift and thank the giver personally.

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
147 Main St., Northfield, MA 01360 413 498-5839

**December 2, 2018**  
**10:00 am**

**Communion and 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Rev. Julie G. Olmsted, Pastor/Teacher  
Ministers Members of the Congregation  
Piano and Organ, Chris Harris  
Choir Director: Heather Tower

**God's Extravagant Welcome**  
**"No matter who you are or where you are**  
**on life's journey, YOU are welcome here"**

