

**First Trinitarian Congregational
Church of Scituate, UCC**



Second Sunday of
Advent

December 7, 2025

**Whoever You Are, And Wherever You Are
On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here**

Following Worship everyone is invited to Rice Hall for
Fellowship and Refreshments.

Your hosts today are the Seaside Christmas Fair Committee

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Vital ministry and mission work is being done each week.

To give an offering, simply scan the QR code for our secure online giving.



Ministers to the World, *The Congregation;*

Jen Christianson, *Pastor*

William Richter, *Director of Music;* Zandy Shepherd, *Music Assistant*

Jody DeCoursey, *Admin;* Scott Holmes, *Sexton*

Ftccscituate.org

* Invites those who are able to stand / **Bold** indicates that the congregation speaks

TIME FOR REVERENT REFLECTION

Upon entering, you are encouraged to sit quietly and enjoy the prelude

PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jen

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Hall, *Liturgist*

One: At the start of every day, God shakes us awake to the possibility of reconciliation and joyful abundance.

Many: May our Great Redeemer, who judges all with righteousness, reward the tyrannized with justice.

One: In every season, God tends to the child within us, bringing into harmony all distress and despair.

Many: May our Beloved Emmanuel defend the cause of the deprived, give deliverance to the abused, and overwhelm the will of their persecutors.

One: Throughout all generations, God bestows upon the people a peace that is everlasting.

Many: May the Prince of Peace rain down blessed mercy upon the people, showering the earth with righteousness and peace.

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

#124, all verses

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Tom Hall, *Liturgist*

All: Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest of our daily lives. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale the turmoil within.

Liturgist: And now help us pray the prayer that your Son, Jesus, taught his followers to pray

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.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Degagne Family
by Harold Darke

CHILDREN ARE INVITED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children through grade 12 are invited to [Sunday](#) school

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3: 1-12

Tom Hall, *Liturgist*

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

³ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Prepare! Repent!

Pastor Jen

*** SERMON HYMN**

Lo! How a Rose E're Blooming

#160, all verses

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Carol of the Advent

by Philip Dietterich

*** SONG OF PRAISE**

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor Jen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Jen

All are welcome to participate in the sacrament

PRAYER OF COMMUNION

All: Gracious and Eternal God, we share this meal as a symbol of Peace. In each of us, we find the beloved, the follower, the doubter, and the betrayer, and yet we know that we are welcome at this table. This meal is open to all, that it may offer sustenance as well as refuge. May we leave this table refreshed, ready to take your radical ministry of extravagant hope, everlasting peace, exuberant joy, and abundant love into the world. Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP



CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#128, all verses

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Upcoming Events:

12/24, 4 pm Christmas Eve Service &
Pageant

1/11/26 All Congregation Annual
Meeting after worship

—Portions of today's liturgy come from Worship Ways, a ministry of the UCC

JESUS OUR SAVIOR

124 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives. Isa. 61:1

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a Child, and yet a King,

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

TEXT: Charles Wesley
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arranged by Robert Harkness
A lower setting may be found at No. 89

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.

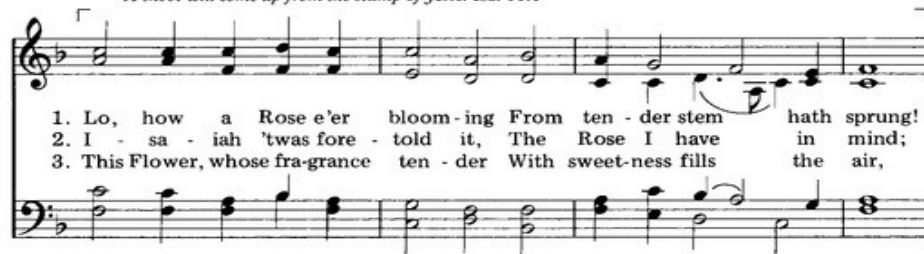
*Optional transition to
"Joy to the World"*

accel. poco a poco *accented*

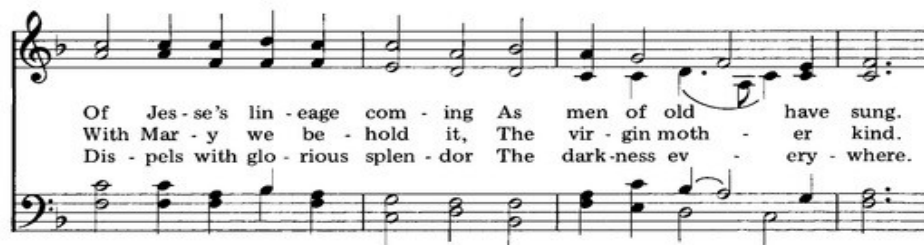
JESUS OUR SAVIOR

160 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming


A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. Isa. 11:1



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind;
3. This Flower, whose fra-grance ten-der With sweet-ness fills the air,



Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing As men of old have sung.
With Mar-y we be-hold it, The vir-gin moth-er kind.
Dis-pels with glo-rious splen-dor The dark-ness ev-ery-where.



It came, a Flow-er bright, A-mid the cold of
To show God's love a-right She bore to men a
True man, yet ver-y God, From sin and death He



win-ter, When half-gone was the night.
Sav-ior, When half-gone was the night.
saves us And light-ens ev-ery load.

TEXT: German carol, 16th century; translated by Theodore Baker, stanzas 1, 2 and Harriet Krauth Spaeth, stanza 3
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1599; harmonized by Michael Praetorius

ES IST EIN' ROS'
7.6.7.6.6.7.6.

JESUS OUR SAVIOR

128 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Luke 2:9

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing a harmonic foundation. The lyrics are printed below the voice staff, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the verses.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Still thru the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, By proph - ets seen of old,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world:
Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good - will to men, From heav'n's all - gra - cious King!"
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing.
And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

TEXT: Edmund H. Sears
MUSIC: Richard S. Willis

CAROL
C.M.D.