



**“WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER,  
THE WORLD WILL KNOW PEACE”**

Jimi Hendrix

# **ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Fourth Sunday of Advent ☪ December 18th, 2022 ☪ 11 A.M.



## **WORSHIP GUIDE**

Signs, Miracles, and Wonders



# WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

Please silence all mobile devices.

\* Indicates Music Selection.

🏠 An invitation to stand.

\* Gathering Music

*"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

    Ringing of the Bells

\* Prelude to Worship

*"In Dulci Jubilo (Now Let Us Sing with Joy)"*

    Words of Welcome

🏠 Call to Community

The day we have been waiting for is almost here!

**Jesus has come, and Jesus is coming again!**

The time we have been expecting is almost fulfilled

**Christ has come, and Christ is doing something new!**

The news we have been waiting to hear has almost arrived

**The Gospel of Jesus is the Good News of God's Love. We celebrate the Good News of God's Love for all of us.**

The Good News is revealed to us today in Jesus the Christ. **Amen**

\*Opening Hymn

*"Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn" Red 115*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Shultz-Shroyer Family

Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; he has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

"With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).

*Three purple and the pink candles are lit.*

**Advent Choral Response (as candles are lit) \***

Verse 4 of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Red Hymnal #108

O Holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Let us pray:

**Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

\*Choral Anthem

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"  
The Zion Choir

Children's Time

### ***WE HEAR GOD'S WORD***

First Reading: Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Lector: Rae Smith

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah<sup>[a]</sup> said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.<sup>[b]</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### **Choral Response**

Refrain from "O Come All Ye faithful"  
Red Hymnal #112

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
Christ the Lord!

Second Reading: The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Matthew 1:18-25  
Pastor Katie Penick

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of

the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son,<sup>[b]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

The Message

*Dreams and Visions*

Invitation to Give

\* Offertory

**Choral Response**

*Verse 4 of "In Bleak Mid-Winter"*

Black Hymnal #128

What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part  
But what can I offer: all my heart.

Blessing Our Gifts

Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love,

**And we give with love.**

Love for you, our Loving God.

**Love for your beautiful people.**

Receive these generous offerings,

**And use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.**

**Sacrament of Communion**

\*Koinonia Hymn

*"With Joy Draw Water" Tune: St. Columbia*

Black #109

Invitation

Who is invited to the Lord's Table?

**All are invited; the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the lowest and the least; sinners and saints together in communion. Come find your place here where there are no strangers or foreigners, only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.**

The Story

Why do we give thanks at this table?

**We give thanks because Jesus showed us the way, we give thanks because Jesus is the Way. Jesus was a gift from God for the world. He was called Emmanuel, "God with us." He came to show us a new way to live. Jesus lived a life of thankfulness and love. We give thanks that he is our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

Why do we eat and drink at this table?

**We eat because on the night before Jesus died, he ate with his friends. He gave them bread and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." At that same meal he took a cup of wine and said, "Drink this cup. This is the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."**

What do we remember at this table?

**We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us. We remember Jesus' life and his love. We remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. We remember the resurrection and the promise of life. We remember that we are waiting in hope to see Jesus again.**

Blessing the Meal

Let us pray: God of grace, thank you for this bread and wine, and for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of hope, fill us with your Spirit today that we might have the wisdom to understand the mystery of this Table, and the depth and height and breadth and length of your love for us. Through this meal, strengthen us to be followers of Jesus, a community of peace in a broken world.

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Jesus, you truly are Immanuel "God with us". In this season of hope, may the meal we've shared together nourish us to be your body in the world, your kingdom come, your will done on earth as it is in heaven. With the angels in heaven, we join in singing your praises, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us now join our voices together in our common prayer...**

Prayer of Our Savior

**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 and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Black 116

Sending Forth

Prelude to Service



***GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!***



## ***CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Week of December 18<sup>th</sup>

We are 18 days into the month of December, have you been setting aside the items listed on the Reverse Advent Calendar to donate to Tuesday's Supper and One-Stop Shop? Typically, advent calendars are filled with candy and you open one each day starting December 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on Christmas Day. Reverse advent calendars allow you to donate or give something each day – thus giving instead of getting. The concept is to set aside an item each day from your pantry and put it into a box or basket and bring into the church weekly or all at once on Christmas Eve. Of course, you can always choose to do this same concept in a different way such as setting aside a \$1 (or other designated amount) in a basket each day and donating the collection to Tuesday's Supper and One-Stop Shop. Reverse Advent Calendars are a great way to share with others this Christmas season.

### Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering – **This Sunday**

The UCC Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This year, the UCC rejoices at the opening of possibilities for gathering and worshipping together again, as we anticipate the good news of great joy at Christmas. Still, challenges remain for many of our UCC pastoral leaders who continue to experience loss of income as many congregations struggle with budget shortfalls. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!



# Our Joys & Concerns

## Praying with One Another



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or that have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember to pray for peace and safety in Ukraine and around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings: [Eric B.](#), Holly Bell, [Naomi Brackett](#), Jeff Cannedy, [Linda Cantilena](#), Richard Cantilena, [Cisco](#), Kim & Bill Cook, [Ronald Curry Sr.](#), Shirley Flanagan (Sue Greaff's Aunt), [Shawnee Forciho](#), Joanna and Derrick Garber, [Carol Garland](#), Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), [Beth Gross](#), Hart Family, [Jim & Donna Hatfield](#), Hess Family, [Sherry Hockman](#), Lyn Hoffmaster, [Jane Hollabaugh](#), Paul Hose, [Ann Kalinoski](#), Rhondda Kane, [Alyssa Kline](#), Dee Krause, [LaBombard Family](#), Livingston Family, [Sofia Martinez](#), Dee McGlauckin, [Mia](#), Barry & Amy Newlin, [Annie Penick](#), James Penick, [Mark Plotner](#), Price Family, [Colleen Rand](#), David Ridenour, [Betsy Roulette](#), Verna Rosenfield, [Claudia Ruth](#), Norm & Lori Schmidt, [Ralph & Scherry Sellers](#), Staci Shafer, [Thelma Summers](#), Tracy Roach Walls, [Eleanor Wible](#), Eric Wolbring, [Robert Yeoman](#), and the Ziegler Family.

*\*Prayer Requests remain active on the prayer list for 4-weeks unless renewed.*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Howard Kaylor** (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>), **Anissa Wade** (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>), **David Ridenour** (Dec 21<sup>st</sup>), **Carol Schultz** (Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>), **Ralph Sellers** (Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>), **Michael Jones** (Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>), **Sandra Rhodes** (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>).

**Happy Anniversary to Susan and Richard Lohman** (Dec 29<sup>th</sup>)! May this year of your life/lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of YOU. We hope and pray that this year of your life is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise, may you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.

**Helping Hands Schedule**      *Lector Today: Rae Smith*      *Lector Next Sunday: Rich Owens*

*Ushers Today: Team 4*      *Ushers Next Sunday: Virtual Service Provided by UCC*

## Important Dates This Week



**Tuesday's Supper & 1-Stop Shop** – December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

**Longest Night Service** – December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm

**Thursday Lunch Bunch** – December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30am (ZOOM/Burhans Rm)

**Staff Meeting** – December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm (Burhans Rm/Hybrid)

**Choir Practice** – **Wednesday December 21<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm (Chapel)**

**Downtown Hagerstown 4-H Club** – December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30pm (Burhans Room) More Info: [www.zionreformed.church/thursday](http://www.zionreformed.church/thursday)

Contact Kim Ridenour for more information at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net).



## Service Credits December 18

Adapted from ~ <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-4a-december-18/>,  
<https://www.faithward.org/advent-candle-lighting-readings/> &  
<https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2011/11/advent-communion-service.html#:~:text=Why%20do%20we%20give%20thanks,from%20God%20for%20the%20world.>

**Gathering music:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Composed by Felix Mendelssohn. Arr. by Dan Miller. © 2001 by Birnamwood Pub. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Prelude:** In Dulci Jubilo (Now Let Us Sing with Joy). Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Hymns:** Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn. Tune: Yorkshire. Red 115. Composed by John Wainwright (1750). Words by John Byrom (1750). Performed by C. M. Moblard (piano) of Zion Reformed UCC.

With Joy Draw Water. NCH 109. Tune: St. Columba. Irish traditional melody. Words by Anne McKinstry. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. (Red 88) Tune Veni Emmanuel. 15th Century French tune. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC).

Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

**Choral anthem:** It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. Composed by J. S. Bach and Richard Willis. Words by Edmund H. Sears and Rose Aspinall. . © 2018 Lorenz Pub.

**Offertory:** Angels We Have Heard on High. Tune: Gloria. French trads. Carol. Arr. by Mary McDonald. © 2014 Lorenz Pub. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Communion:** What Child is This? Tune: Greensleeves. Arr. and performed by C. M. Moblard (piano) of Zion Reformed UCC.

**Postlude:** Hallelujah Chorus. Composed by Georg Fr. Haendel. Arr. by Gerard Alphenaar. © 1954 Marks Music Corp. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.