

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third Sunday of Advent & December 11th, 2022 & 11 A.M.

WORSHIP GUIDE Signs, Miracles, and Wonders

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WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in Bold. Please silence all mobile devices. ✤ Indicates Music Selection. \uparrow An invitation to stand.

Gathering Music [♦] Ringing of the Bells Prelude to Worship[♦] Words of Welcome Inspired by Luke 1:46b-55, The Magnificat

↑ Call to Community

Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

We come today with eager hope, awaiting God's new revelation.

The Mighty One has done great things. God's mercy covers generations.

We come today with ready peace, trusting with anticipation.

The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry, dwells with us.

We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.

↑Opening Hymn⁴

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" NCH Hymnal #43 (Black Hymnal)

Lighting of the Advent Candle – The Candle of Joy

The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves" (Psalm 126:5-6).

Two Purple Candles and the Pink Candle are Lit while Choral Response is Sung.

Advent Candle Choral Response $^{\diamond}$ Verse 3 of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Red Hymnal #108

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Hackett Family

"Gesù Bambino"

Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World"

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Choral Anthem [♦]

"O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go" The Zion Choir

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSVUE) Lector: Missie LaBombard

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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: Mary's Song of Praise

Luke 1:46b-55 (NRSVUE) Rev. Katie Penick

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Message

RESPONDING IN LOVE

Invitation to Give

Offertory [♦]

"Carol of the Bells"

Blessed

Offertory 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 I can I offer: all my heart.

Blessing Our Gifts

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

And we give with joy.

Joy for all you have given us;

Joy because of your sacred promises.

Bless these gifts,

And use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

↑ Koinonia Hymn⁴

"Love Came Down at Christmas" NCH Hymnal #165 (Black Hymnal)

Congregational Meeting

Sacrament of Communion

Sharing the Meal \diamondsuit

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

All bread on the communion table is gluten-free to be inclusive of all God's children. God's table is open to all! Anyone who desires to participate in communion is welcome to do so. The communion table offers a choice of wine or grape juice and gluten-free bread for all.



↑ Closing Hymn [♦]

Sending Forth

Processional to Chapel for Cookies, Cards, and Carols

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" NCH Hymnal #76 (Black Hymnal)

> "O Come All Ye Faithful" Rear of Bulletin

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Now You Know Music Notes

"Carol of the Bells" is a popular Christmas carol, with music by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1914 and lyrics by Peter J. Wilhousky. The song is based on the Ukrainian folk chant *"Shchedryk"* which means "Bountiful Evening" and is a Ukrainian New Year's song, known in English as "The Little Swallow". *Shchedryk"* was also arranged by composer and teacher Mykola Leontovyc and tells a story of a swallow flying into a household to sing of wealth that will come with the following spring. "Shchedryk" was originally sung on the night of January 13, New Year's Eve in the Julian Calendar

With the introduction of Christianity to Ukraine, the celebration of the New Year was moved from April to January and "Shchedryk" became associated with the Feast of Epiphany also known in Ukrainian as *Shchedry vechir*, January 18 in the Julian calendar. It was originally sung on the night of January 13, New Year's Eve in the Julian Calendar (December 31 Old Style), which is Shchedry Vechir. In modern Ukraine, the song is again sung on the eve of the Julian New Year (January 13).

"Shchedryk" was later adapted as an English Christmas carol, "Carol of the Bells", by Peter J. Wilhousky of NBC Radio, following a performance of the original song by Alexander Koshetz's Ukrainian National Chorus at Carnegie Hall on October 5, 1922. Wilhousky copyrighted and published his new lyrics (which were not based on the Ukrainian lyrics) in 1936, and the song became popular in the United States and Canada, where it became strongly associated with Christmas. Although "Carol of the Bells" uses the melody from "Shchedryk," the lyrics of these two songs have nothing in common. The ostinato of the Ukrainian song suggested to Wilhousky the sound of ringing bells, so he wrote lyrics on that theme.





Christmas Poinsettias – Orders Due Today

Help decorate our sanctuary with Christmas poinsettias this Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia(s) in honor of or in memory of a loved one this Christmas season for a donation of \$10. **Order deadline is December 11**th, get your order in today to ensure your loved one is honored/remembered with a Christmas poinsettia(s) to decorate our historic sanctuary with an array of beauty this Christmas season! Poinsettias will be on display beginning Christmas Eve and through January 1st at which time they can be taken home by donor. Poinsettias not collected by January 7th will be given away. Order forms available in vestibule or contact the Church Office.

Congregational Meeting and Cards, Carols, & Cookies – Today

The agenda will consist of discussing and voting on the 2023 budget, and consistory 2023 nominees. All members are encouraged to participate in this important business meeting! Budget proposals are vailable at the church and online at www.zionreformed.church/winter-mtg. Virtual participants can worship online as usual and connect via ZOOM for the congregational meeting segment.

The following members will continue their currently elected terms: Elders - Kim Ridenour, Michael Jones, Carroll Sager, Tina Shafer, Susie Clutz. Deacons – Rich Owens and Calvin Livingston.

The following nominees have stepped up to serve on the Consistory from 2023 to 2025, if elected: Megan Shroyer (Deacon), Matt McDonald (Deacon), and Jean Simmons (Deacon).

The following member(s) desire to renew for a second term, if approved by the congregation: Carol Mooers (Elder).

Upon completion of the congregational meeting, you are invited to proceed into the Chapel in song for a festive time of Cookies, Carols, and Cards as we sing, eat, and prepare Christmas cards together.

Reverse Advent Calendar – A Great Christmas Tradition to Start!

We are 11 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 1st 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 – Next 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 communicationwith 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., 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 **Koda Bell** (Dec 12th) and **Carol France** (Dec 13th), and **Scherry Sellers** (Dec 15th). Happy Anniversary to **Wells and Karen Ridenour** (Dec 12th)! 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: Missie LaBombard Ushers Today: Team 3 *Lector Next Sunday: Rae Smith Ushers Next Sunday:* Team 4



Search & Call Team Meeting – December 12th at 5:30pm (Burhans Rm/Hybrid)

Consistory Meeting – December 12th at 7pm (Burhans Rm/Hybrid)

ONA Team Meeting – December 13th at 12:30pm (Burhans Rm/Hybrid)

Tuesday's Supper & 1-Stop Shop – December 13th from 5-6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

January Newsletter Deadline – December 15th at Noon

Thursday Lunch Bunch – December 15th at 11:30am (ZOOM/Burhans Rm) More Info: www.zionreformed.church/thursday

Choir Practice – December 15th at 4pm (Chapel)

Downtown Hagerstown 4-H Club – December 15th at 4:30pm (Burhans Room) Contact Kim Ridenour for more information at miskim@myactv.net.







Imagine This...

Imagine this. A young clergyperson graduates from seminary, tens of thousands of dollars in debt, and eagerly takes their first call. It's a small church, but they have a lot of heart. They can't pay Conference guidelines, and benefits are pretty scarce, but they love their pastor. There are a lot of casseroles. The parsonage is nice, and the church works hard to maintain it and keep good boundaries. The church never once forgets their pastor's ordination anniversary. The pastor is making ends meet, barely, if they make the minimum payment on everything. Then they discover they need a medical procedure not covered by the basic (non-Pension Boards) insurance the church provides. What will they do? Take out a loan to save their own life?

Multiply that across a career's worth of years and emergencies and student loan payments. How will that pastor ever retire? What kind of life will they have if they do? What good will a former parsonage and all those loving casseroles do then? Who will show them the love of Christ other than the good people at the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, who administer the Christmas Fund?

If any of this scenario makes you anxious, or mad, you can do something about it: give as generously as you are able to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross offering. The Christmas Fund is our United Church of Christ's way of taking care of that pastor—and all UCC pastors and church professionals—throughout their careers and beyond.

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

Order Form – Christmas Poinsettias for Zion Reformed UCC Sanctuary

Your name (as you wish it to appear in the bulletin): _____

In Honor of (optional): _____

In Memory of (optional): _____

Number of Poinsettias ordered @ \$10.00 each: _____

Orders are due by Sunday, December 11

You may email this order form to zionrucc@myactv.net or drop off at the Church Office. Make all checks payable to Zion Reformed UCC. Payment can also be mailed to:

Zion Reformed UCC 201 N. Potomac St. Hagerstown, MD 21740

You are asked to take home your purchased poinsettia(s) **between** Sunday, January 1st and Sunday, January 8th. **Poinsettias not taken by end of service on January 8th, will be given away.**

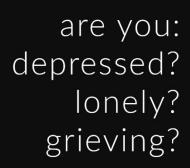




join us CHRISTMAS EVE candlelight service @ 7:00 pm

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ | 201 N Potomac St.

Longest Night Service December 21 @ 6pm



it is all welcome here

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ 201 N Potomac St.



throughout this Advent and Christmas Seasons

Advent 1 (hope) – November Nov 27th, 11am

Advent 2 (peace) – December 4th, 11am

Advent 3 (joy) – December 11th, 11am

Congregational Meeting During Worship. Cookies, Cards, and Carols in Chapel after Worship.

Advent 4 (love) – December 18th, 11am

Longest Night Service – December 21st, 6pm

Christmas Eve Service – December 24th, 7pm

Christmas Day - December 25th, Any Convenient Time for You

Join us virtually for Christmas Day as we worship with the Central Atlantic Conference at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive. Service will be available as early as 9am and available at any time convenient for you and your family to worship.

Thursday Lunch Bunch - December 29th

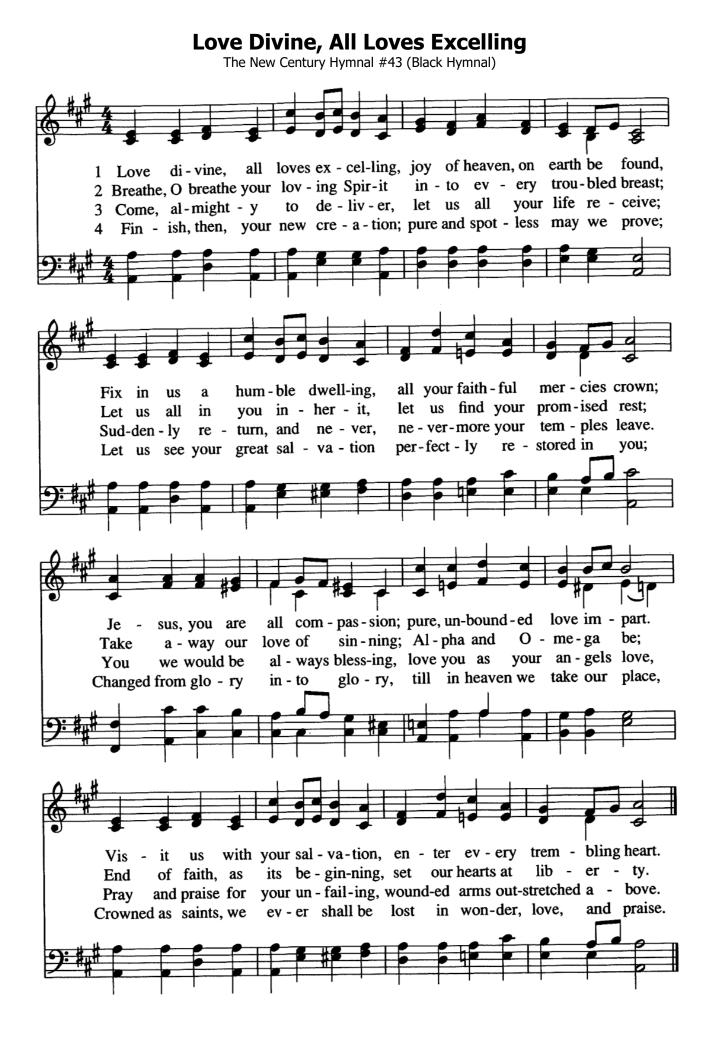
The Thursday Lunch Bunch discussion group will **not** meet Dec 29th due to the holiday season. Please plan to join this intimate discussion group beginning in January when they resume session and begin the book, "Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage" by Anne Lamott. Learn more about this book and get your copy today through Amazon, your favorite bookstore or from the church (limited supplies available).

1st Sunday after Christmas Day (New Year's Day) – January 1st, 11am

All Services available virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive and in-person in the sanctuary except Christmas Day which is available virtually only with no in-person worship or Sunday School classes.

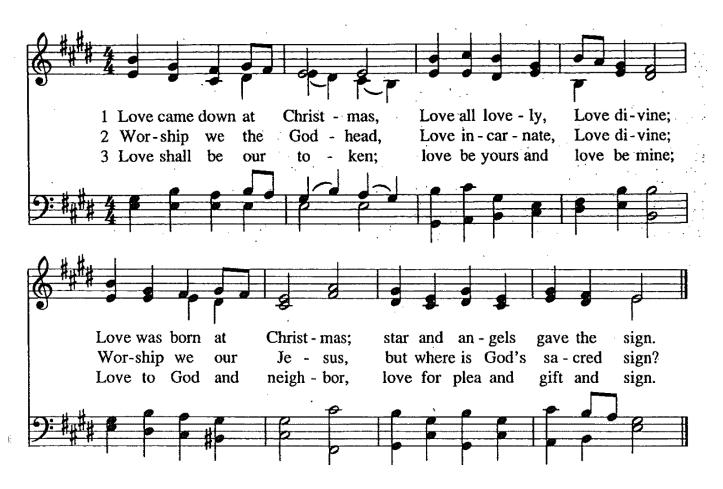
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX. ON CHRISTMAS EVE BRING YOUR ITEMS IN FOR OUR ONE-STOP SHOP

December 1 - box of cereal December 2 - peanut butter December 3 - stuffing mix December 4 - boxed potatoes December 5 - macaroni and cheese December 6 - canned fruit December 7 - canned tomatoes December 8 - canned tuna December 9 - dessert mix December 10 - jar of applesauce December 11 - canned sweet potatoes December 12 - cranberry sauce December 13 - canned beans December 14 - box of crackers December 15 - package of rice December 16 - package of oatmeal December 17 - package of pasta December 18 - spaghetti sauce December 19 - chicken noodle soup December 20 - tomato soup December 21 - canned corn December 22 - canned mixed vegetables December 23 - canned carrots December 24 - canned green beans



Love Came Down at Christmas

The New Century Hymnal #165 (Black Hymnal)



Sending Forth by God's Blessing

The New Century Hymnal #76 (Red Hymnal)







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Gathering Music: *Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World"* – One License Song# 123042 – Arrangement by Marc F. Cheban, ©1994 by H.W. Gray Publications, a division of Jubilate Music. Based on the tune, "*Antioch"* by George Frideric Handel (1742), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): One License (onelicense.net).

Prelude to Worship: "*Gesù Bambino"* – One License Song# 123002 – Composed by Pietro Alessandro Yon, ©1917 by J. Fischer & Brothers, a division of Jubilate Music. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organ), Amber Nilson (flute), and Barb Hendershot (chimes) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): One License (onelicense.net).

Opening Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" – One License Song# 22150 – Tune, "Beecher" by John Zundel (1855), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Charles Wesley (1747), ©Public Domain. Lyric alterations by *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1992, renewed 1995, by The Pilgrim Press. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (Black #43) (hymnary.org).

Advent Candle Choral Response: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" – CCLI Song# 27879 – Tune, "St. Louis" by Lewis H. Redner (1868), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Phillips Brooks (1868), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (Red #108 – V3) (hymnary.org).

Choral Anthem: "*O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*" – One License Song# 61740 – Arranged by Mark Hayes, ©2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of Lorenz Corporation. Based on the tune setting, "*St. Margaret*" by Albert L. Peace (1884) with lyrics by George Matheson (1882), ©Public Domain. Performed by the Zion Choir (vocals), C.M. Moblard (pianist), and led by Byron L. Stay (Choir Director) of Zion Reformed UCC, all rights reserved. *Source(s): Lorenz (lorenz.com) and Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Choral Response: "*O Come All Ye Faithful*" – CCLI Song# 2648015 – Tune, "*Adeste Fideles*" by John Francis Wade (1711-1786), ©Public Domain. Lyrics attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786) and translated by Frederick Oakeley (1841). Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (Red #112 - Refrain) (hymnary.org).

Offertory Music: "*Carol of the Bells"* – XXXXXX – Arranged by Lyndell Leatherman, ©2014 by Lorenz Publishing, a division of the Lorenz Corporation. Based on the tune setting, "*Schedryk"*, a Ukrainian folk chant, ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org).

Offertory Response: "*In the Bleak Midwinter* – One License Song# 97913 – Tune, "*Cranham*" by Gustav Holst (1906), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Christina G. Rossetti (1872), ©Public Domain. Lyrics altered by *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 by The Pilgrim Press. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (NCH #128 – V4) (hymnary.org).

Koinonia Hymn: "Love Came Down at Christmas" – One License Song# 123875 – Tune: "Whitney" by Maurice C. Whitney (1962), renewed 1990 by Belwin Sacred Music c/o CPP Belwin Inc. Lyrics by Christina G. Rosetti (1885), ©Public Domain. Lyric alterations by *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995 by The Pilgrim Press. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (NCH Hymnal #165) (hymnary.org).

Communion Music: "*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* – One License Song# 1009212 – Arranged by Mark Hayes, ©2011 by Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of the Lorenz Corporation. Based on the tune setting, "*Carol"* by Richard Storrs Willis (John R. Sweeney (1850) with lyrics by Edmund H. Sears (1849), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Lorenz (lorenz.com) and Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Closing Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" – One License Song# 101714 (descant) and license# 40362 (lyrics/harmonization) – Tune: "The Ash Grove", a Welsh Folk song melody, harmonized by Leland Sateren (1972), ©1972 by World Library Publications, administered by GIA Publications. Lyrics by Omer Westendorf (1964), ©1964 by World Library Publications, a division of J.S. Paluch Co. Inc, administer by GIA Publications. Descant by Leland B. Saterer, ©1993 by The Pilgrim Press. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (NCH# 76) (hymnary.org).

Processional to Chapel: "O Come All Ye Faithful" – 31054 – Tune, "Adeste Fideles" attributed to John Frances Wade (1751), ©Public Domain. Lyrics from an old Latin hymn attributed to John Frances Wade, translated by Frederick Oakeley (1841), ©Public Domain. Performed by C.M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. *Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Liturgy: Adapted by Rev. Katie Pencik from UCC "Worship Ways" (ucc.org/worship-way)

Scriptures: Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, ©2021 by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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Brandon Hackett, Multimedia Specialist

Claire-Marie Moblard, Director of Music / Organist

Byron L. Stay, Choir Director