

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



MARY MOTHER OF GOD SUNDAY

January 1, 2023 11:00am



Signs, Miracles, and Wonders



Our Mission Statement

To share the gospel of Christ in such a way that we find God, grow our faith,
discover our purpose and make a difference

**First Sunday after Christmas
Miracles, Signs and Wonders
January 1, 2023 @ 11:00 A.M.
Mary Mother of God Sunday
New Beginnings**

Meditation of the Day "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." ~Lao Tzu~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

** All who are able may stand*

Gathering Music

Festival Alleluia

Based on Lasst Und Erfreue

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

Jubilate (Come Christians, Join to Sing)

Words of Welcome

*Call to Community

We come, in need of blessings, seeking closeness with God.

Let us go, to find our God.

We come, from the shadows of our lives, seeking light and hope.

Hurry, and let us go to find the One we have heard so much about!

We come to God, seeking peace for our lives, for our families, for our world.

Come, let us go, believing the Word we have seen though the light.

*Opening Hymn

The First Nowell

Red #118

Lighting of the Candles of Hope

Inspired by Luke 1: 47-55

We will magnify the Lord

We will rejoice in God our Savior

We will magnify the Lord

And all generations shall call us blessed

We will magnify the Lord

For God has done good things and God's mercy extends from generation to generation

We will be reverent before God

Who will scatter the proud (*light a purple candle*)

Who brings down rulers (*light a purple candle*)

Who sends the rich away empty handed (*light a pink candle*)

Who fills the hungry with good things (*light a purple candle*)

Choral Response as the Christ candle is lit

O Little Town of Bethlehem - verse 4 Black #133

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!

We will magnify the Lord for all generations

Children's Time

Baptism of Daniel James Livingston

Introduction

Following the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community, we celebrate the presence of children within this community of faith and offer to children the sacrament of baptism. As we invite Daniel and his parents to come forward today and celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we acknowledge the diverse religious traditions of his parents' parents. Finding a path between the tradition of infant baptism and the personal profession of faith in the Anabaptist tradition affords a unique opportunity to identify the particular faith being expressed here this day. Fully respecting the diversity of the community gathered, we affirm the love of God made known in this child and the sacredness of the covenant shared between this child, his parents, and this congregation to support this child as he lives and grows in faith.

Questions of the Parents/Family:

Do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community?

We do

Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God?

We do

Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

We do

Will you teach your child to honor the faith questions that belong to him throughout his life?

We do

Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

We do

Congregational Assent

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

We promise our love support and care.

Baptismal Prayer

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit. Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless all who touch and taste this water that may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on their lives. Amen. (UCC Book of Worship, adapted)

Act of Baptism

By what name will this child be called?

I baptize you with faith in the living God, Source, Servant and Guide.

May the Spirit be upon you, child of God, disciple of Christ, and member of the Christian church.

Prayer of Dedication

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which this child may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that this child will bask in your love as he makes his own journey through this life. Amen.

Presentation of the Child Daniel James Livingston

Reception of New Member Angel Marie Livingston

Welcome and Introduction of Candidates Address and Questions of the Candidates

Pastor Katie: However, it is that you have come today, we rejoice that you are here and have chosen to become a member of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ. We are an inclusive, caring, justice-seeking, joyful community of faith that is called to embody God's love through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We celebrate diversity and believe that all people are included in God's unconditional love and grace.

Therefore, will you covenant with us to attend worship, invite, and welcome others, and move forward on your spiritual journey with us?

Angel Marie Livingston: I will, with the help of God.

Pastor Katie: Will you covenant with us to seek daily to live and act in ways that help make Jesus' example of God's love for all people real, and to support this church and its ministries by giving as you are able of your time, talent, and financial resources?

Angel Marie Livingston: I will, with the help of God.

Pastor Katie: Will you covenant with us to further God's work and reflect the teachings of Jesus by standing with those who suffer and serving all humanity?

Angel Marie Livingston: I will, with the help of God and this faith community.

Pastor Katie: Do you then, as persons who have affirmed these covenants, seek to become one in spirit with the members of Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ?

Angel Marie Livingston: I do.

Pastor Katie: Members of the family of God, I commend to you these persons. Do all in your power to affirm their faith journey, strengthen their hope, and embrace them in love.

Congregation: We give thanks for the faith God has worked within you. We welcome you wherever you are on your faith journey with our love, acceptance, and respect. We pledge to work together as a community of faith to provide opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, celebration, and service. We promise to give spiritual and emotional care and support in times of need; and to be faithful as fellow stewards of God's grace. Together we will work for peace and social, economic and ecological justice and strive to bring about the world that we believe God intends.

What We Believe

Our vision for our church is:

To Share God's Inclusive Love, Uniting Us with Our Community

The mission God sends us out to do is:

To share the gospel of Christ in such a way that we find God, grow our faith, discover our purpose and make a difference

As followers of Christ, we share these Core Values:

We are a Community: Where we show Love of God and One Another

- **Welcoming all people.**
- **Celebrating unity and diversity.**
- **Working in partnership with other churches.**

We embrace our Spiritual life: Where God Is Still Speaking by

- **Encouraging people on their faith journey**
- **Listening through prayer**
- **Forgiving and being forgiven**

We show discipleship in action: Where Justice isn't about "Just Us" by

- **Striving to imitate the life of Christ in thought, word, and deed**
- **Being good stewards of time, talent & resources**
- **Acting as Christ's hands & voice in the world**
- **Caring for God's creation**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

Rae Smith

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

"So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

*Hymn

This is the Day of New Beginnings

Black #417

Second Reading

Luke 2:15-21

Pastor Katie Penick

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child,^[a] and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Coral Anthem

What a Wonderful World/This is My Father's Word

Zion Choir

The Message

Yes, Mary Knew

Invitation to Give

***Offertory Response** *In The Bleak Mid-Winter* - verse 4 Black 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

God's steadfast love is established forever – like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies. God's faithfulness is as firm as the heavens – like stars that never grow dim. May God bless this offering that Christ's light will shine throughout the ages. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion and Lighting Candles for the New Year

*Hymn

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Black #154

Invitation

The Story

Blessing the Meal

Sharing the Meal

Lighting the Candles of Hope

You are invited to light a candle of hope and prayer for the New Year and write it in our Prayer Book

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.

Sending Forth

Postlude



Basse et Dessus de Trompette – Louis-Nicholas Clerambault

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

Adapted from ~ <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-2a-december-4/> &
<https://www.faithward.org/advent-candle-lighting-readings/>

Service Credits

Gathering music: Festival Alleluia. Based on Lasst Uns Erfreuen. Arr. By Dan Miller. © 1999 by MorningStar Music. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Jubilate (Come Christians, Join to Sing). Composed by Bengamin Carl. Arr. by Slice Jordan. © 1977 by Broadman Press. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: The First Nowell. Red 118. Traditional English Melody in W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols (833)*. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

This is the Day of New Beginnings. NCH 417. Composed by Brian Wren (1978). Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Go Tell it on the Mountain. NCH African American Spiritual. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Between Scriptures: And God Will Raise You Up on Eagle's Wings. NCH 775. Composed by Michael Joncas. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Choral anthem: What a Wonderful World/This is My Father's World. Arr. by John D. Miller. © 1967 by Range Road Music.

Offertory: Good Christian Men, Rejoice. Arr. by Alice Jordan. © 1967 by Van Ness Press. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Offertory response: Let There Be Peace on Earth. Performed by C. M. Moblard (piano) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion: Blessed Assurance. Composed by Phoebe Palmer Knapp. Performed by C. M. Moblard (piano) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Day by Day. Composed by Oscar Ahnfelt. Performed by C. M. Moblard (piano) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Both arr. by Mark Hayes and © 2011 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

Postlude: Basse et Dessus de Trompette. Composed by Louis-Nicolas Clerambault. © by Belwin Mills. Performed by C. M. Moblard (piano) of Zion Reformed UCC.