

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 3, 2023
11:00 A.M.
First Sunday of Advent - HOPE



*"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."
Luke 21:27*

Gathering Music and Bells "Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme" Johann Ludwig Krebs

Greetings, Announcements
Kim Ridenour - Congregational Meeting and Tee Shirts

Prelude "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" Traditional French Carol Mary McDonald

Call to Worship

One: We come with Hope
All: We worship with Hope
One: Christ comes as our Hope
All: Alleluia! Amen.

***Hymn** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Black #116

Reception of New Members

Introduction of Joining Members: Mark & Mary Bagby, James Coates, Barry Landis, Rick Waters

Greeting by Pastor: Friends in Christ, you have been asked to come forward to help us associate your names with your faces, which is a vital step as we seek to cultivate a real knowing of one another. It is in our relationships with one another, as well as in our shared worship, study, reflection, and service, that the life of this community of faith is built.

Statement of Faith: United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.**

Statement of Expectations for Joining Members - Kim Ridenour, Consistory President

In response to our covenant and as an essential means of fulfilling it we expect the following from all members. We expect to find you at worship frequently; we assume you will be part of our circle around the Lord's Table. We assume you will want to continue to learn and to grow through sharing in our educational programs. We assume you are open to involvement in our servant forms of ministry in and beyond our church. We assume you will take a leadership role when possible and that you will set aside a responsible portion of your income for the financial support of our ministry in and beyond Hagerstown.

Statement of Expectations of Joining Members – Kim Ridenour, Consistory President

You may expect from us, your fellow members, every feasible opportunity for spiritual, personal, and social growth. To facilitate this, we will share with you our gifts of experience and understanding in matters of life and faith. In your times of decision, stress and grief, you may expect us to be by your side. You may likewise expect us to want to be with you in your times of joy and celebration. From our Pastor, you may expect sound preaching, good counsel, informed teaching, leadership in community service, and always a willingness to listen and share with you. What we give you as your fellow members is our trust, and we ask yours in return.

Acceptance of Membership:

Understanding the content of our covenant and hearing the expectations of fellow members, do you accept our invitation to membership?

If so, answer: **"Yes, with the help of God and my fellow members."**

Welcome of the Congregation: Do you, the members of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ accept these persons as your fellow members?

If so, answer: **"We do with joy!"**

Unison Words of Welcome:

We welcome you with thanksgiving as partners in the vital ministries of the Zion Reformed United Church of Christ. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Christ. God grant that together we may live out the claims of our faith and continue to grow into the fullness and maturity of life known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn Refrain

"Here I am Lord"

Back of the New Century Hymnal

***Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Isaiah 64:1-9

Lighting by New Members

Reader 1: O God, we light the first candle of Advent. (light the first candle)

Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

All: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

Song

"Shine on us, O God of justice"

(sung to *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*)

**Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

Lector: Amber Nilson

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O God, you are our Creator; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O God, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem "An Advent Credo" Zion Choir with Amber Nilson on Flute

Word for Children

Scripture Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV) Lector: Amber Nilson

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,

and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Apprehensive Watching

***Hymn**

"My Soul Gives Glory to God"

Black #119

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

One: Luke in his Gospel says that Jesus, while sharing a meal with two disciples, took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ. In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of bread.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us open our hearts.

All: We open our hearts to God and one another.

One: Let us give thanks.

All: We thank God with joy.

Sharing the Elements

"Listen for His Coming" and "Listen to the Angels"

Mark Hayes

Prayer of Commitment (in unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you give of yourself to help us grow. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your blessing, to work in your name and rest in your grace, trusting your presence with us and with all creation. Amen.

Call to the Offering

When our eyes are heavy, we dream of another world.

When our spirits are low, we turn to each other.

When our anger flares, we need each other's gifts most.

We give our gifts of tithes and offerings to create your kingdom of heaven.

Offertory

"Saviour of the Heathen, Come"

J. S. Bach

Doxology

In the Bleak Midwinter, Verse 1

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen
Snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter
Long, long ago

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**O God, you have called your laborers to give their gifts.
Bless these offerings so that they reflect the work of the kingdom of heaven.
With Christ, our servant, we pray. Amen.**

***Hymn**

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

Black #117

Charge and Benediction

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.
We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.
The good news of Advent is this:
Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.
We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in hope.

Postlude

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" Traditional French Carol

Heath Chapman



Congregational Meeting

The Zion Consistory announces the Winter Congregational Meeting session will be held December 10th immediately following worship. The agenda will consist of discussing and voting on the 2024 budget, and consistory 2024 nominees. All members are encouraged to participate in this important business meeting! Budget proposals will be mailed out to members or can be picked up for review from the vestibule.

The following members will continue their currently elected terms:

Elders – Kim Ridenour, Carroll Sager, Carol Mooers, Tina Shafer, and Susie Clutz,

Deacons – Rich Owens, Calvin Livingston, Megan Shroyer, Matt McDonald, and Jean Simmons.

2024 Nominee for Deacon is Becky Hohman.

Micah's Backpack is collecting Hot Chocolate and Apple Cider Packets during the month of December.



Our Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting Canned Tuna, Chicken, Spam and Viena Sausages during the month of December.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.



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. Join 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 around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings: Bruce Albright, Janis Albright, Holly Bell, Brenda Bowers, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, **Kim & Bill Cook**, Donna France, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, Elwood Hauver, Brian Johnson, Bradley, Hanna & Ellie Jump, Maddison & Rexton Jump, Tena Kindle, Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston,

Mary Lorfing, The Martin family, Heather Morgan, **The Family of Betty Patterson**, Annie Penick, James Penick, Mary Pietsch, David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, **Betsy Roulette**, Verna Rosenfield, Emma Schnebly, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Melanie & Wesley (granddaughter and great grandson of Danny Springer), Jessica Stark, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, The Tencer family, Tracy Roach Walls,.

*****New additions to the Prayer List will be printed in bold for the first week.***

The lector this week is Amber Nilson. The lector next week is Barb Hendershot.

Ushers for this week are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.



Next week's ushers are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons.

Greeters for this week are: Front Door – Matthew McDonald. Middle Door – TBD.

Please sign up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the middle doors.

Birthdays



12/05 John Dwyer

Upcoming Events:

12/03 Decorate Christmas Trees after Sunday Service
12/09 Easy-cise Class 9:00 am



12/10 Congregational Meeting 12:00 pm
Holiday Workshop following the Congregational Meeting. Please use the sign up sheet located on the table in the chapel, or you can use the on line form.

Save the Dates

12/11 CE Team Meeting 5:30 pm
Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm
12/12 Staff Meeting 12:00 pm
HARC Monthly Meeting 11:30 am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30 pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
12/13 Wednesday Potluck 6:00 pm
12/14 Executive Team Meeting 2:00 pm
4-H Club Meeting 4:30 pm
Choir Practice 5:30 pm

Wednesday Potluck

Our Wednesday Evening Potluck is back. This is a great way to leave the workday behind and just relax. Join us every Wednesday evening at 6:00pm in the Chapel for good food, interesting discussions, and great fellowship. Bring your favorite dish for everyone to try.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia on the altar in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one for Christmas, please fill out the enclosed form and return to Rae Smith. Poinsettias will be offered in either red or pink and are \$10 each. The deadline for ordering is December 3rd.



Offering Envelopes

If you would like a box of Offering Envelopes for the upcoming year, please use the sign-up sheet on the table in the Chapel or let Rae Smith know. Office phone number 301-739-7244, e-mail zionrucc@myactv.net



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) _____

Poinsettias are available in both Red and Pink

Number of Red Poinsettias ordered @ \$10.00 each _____

Number of Pink Poinsettias ordered @ \$10.00 each _____

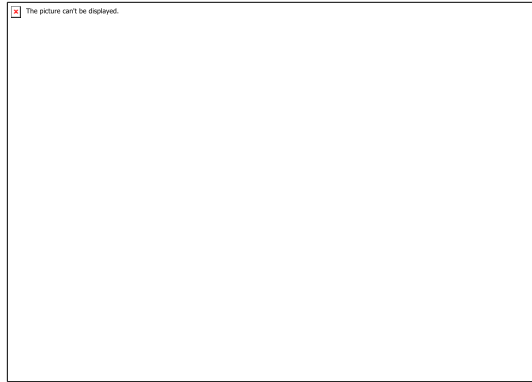
Orders are due by Sunday December 3, 2023

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 poinsettias between Sunday, December 31st and Sunday January 7th. Poinsettias not taken by the end of service on January 14th will be given away.





If you would like to purchase a Red UCC Comma pin (\$2.00) or a Rainbow UCC Comma pin (\$3.50) please complete this order form and place it in the offering plate.

I would like (1) (2) (3) (4) or ___ rainbow commas.

I would like (1) (2) (3) (4) or ___ red commas.

Name: _____

December 3
CCLI Number: 6212519

Gathering music: Wachtet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme Composed by Johann Ludwig Krebs. ©1978 by N. Simrock. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Ding Dong! Merrily on High. Traditional French Carol. Arr. by Mary McDonald. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI number: 7145041

Hymns: Come, O Come, Emmanuel. NCH 116. Tune: Veni Emmanuel. 15th century French tune. Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God. NCH 119. Tune: Morning Song. Melody from Kentucky Harmony. Words by Miriam Therese Winter (1987). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates. NCH 117. Tune: Truro. Composed by Thomas Williams. Words by Georg Weissel (1641). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem: An Advent Credo. Composed by Joseph M. Martin. © 2005 by Malcolm Music. CCLI number: 4653390

Communion: Listen for His Coming. CCLI number: 3493032

Listen to the Angels. Both arr. by Mark Hayes. © 2001 by Word Music. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI number: 3493001

Offertory: Saviour of the Heathen, Come. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1955 by Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella. Traditional French Carol. Arr. Heath Chapman. © 1976 by McAfee Music Corp. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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.**

A Special Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to the Zion Reformed United Church of Christ! We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. I believe you will find Zion Church an open and safe place to ask the difficult questions of life and a community that honors each spiritual journey. We encourage you to ask our members about our community, explore our bulletin and website and to gift us with your contact information (phone, address, email) in our Guest Book as you exit worship. We are ready to answer any question or to help connect you to any program that we can. I hope I have the opportunity to greet you in person after the service or that you'll contact me. Many blessings, Scott Winnette, Pastor (pastorwinnette@gmail.com)

Zion



Reformed

United Church of Christ

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Phone: 301.739.7244 | Email: zionrucc@myactv.net

Web: www.zionreformed.church | Facebook: @ZionRUCC

YouTube: Zion Reformed UCC

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette, Pastor

Phone: 240-675-3227 | Email: pastorwinnette@gmail.com

