

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 10, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE



A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord” *Luke 3:4*

Gathering Music and Bells “Christmas Carols for Organ” Mary McDonald

Greetings, Announcements

Prelude “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Benjamin Kolodziej

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candle (Isaiah 40:1-11, Church School Children)

Reader 1: O God, we light the second candle of Advent. (light 2nd candle)

Reader 2: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Reader 1: Isaiah announced God’s coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God’s redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

All: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. 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.**

PRAYER OF HOPE

Isaiah 2:1-5

**God of Hope, you call us to be practitioners of prophetic imagination,
people who aren't scared to dream about a better future,
and to take concrete steps to bring it to fruition.**

But, too often, we settle for far less than you intend:

for what is easy,

for what is convenient,

for what is better for a few instead of all.

Forgive us, Adonai, for our lack of moral imagination.

Help us dream of your promised day,

when we shall beat our weapons into gardening tools,

unlearn the ways of war,

and plant seeds of peace in places ridden with violence.

In the name of the coming Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lamentations 3:22

God's creation knows no ending,

God's mercies are from everlasting to everlasting.

In the name of the Born and Resurrected Christ, we celebrate:

our sins are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

Song

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Word of Wisdom

Father Henri Nouwen wrote, "Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity."

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Maurice C Whitney

Word for Children

Claire-Marie Moblard and Byron Stay

Scripture

Mark 1:1-8

Lector: Barb Hendershot

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and

he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "More Christmas Apocalypse, But Different" Rev. Kyle Powderly

***Hymn** "With Joy Draw Water" Black #109

Morning Prayer

The Prayer Jesus Teaches Us

Our Father (Creator), 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.

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 "Carol of the Bells" Mykola Leontovych

Doxology "In the Bleak Midwinter" Verse 2

**Angels and Arc Angels
May have traveled there
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air
But only his Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshiped the beloved
With a kiss**

Prayer of Dedication (in unison) *Adapted from the prayer of St Francis of Assisi*

Holy One, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness light;

where there is sadness joy.

**O Divine Master,
grant that we may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

***Hymn**

"The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore"

Black #115

Benediction

Postlude

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Mary Macdonald

Congregational Meeting

The Zion Consistory announces the Winter Congregational Meeting session will be held today 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, **Calvin Livingston and Family**, Mary Lorring, 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 Barb Hendershot. The lector next week is Calvin Livingston. Ushers for this week are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons. Next week's ushers are Burnie Clutz, Susan Clutz, Becky Hohman, John Schnebly. Greeters for this week are: Front Door – Megan Shroyer. Middle Door – Calvin Livingston.

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

Birthdays



12/10 Jeanne Stoner
12/13 Carol France
12/15 Scherry Sellers

Anniversaries

12/7 Bob & Peggy Lowman
12/12 Wells & Karen Ridenour

Upcoming Events:



12/10 Congregational Meeting 12:00 pm
Holiday Workshop following the Congregational Meeting.
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 4-H Club Meeting 4:30 pm
Choir Practice 5:30 pm

Save the Dates

12/17 Children's Christmas Pageant during worship
12/21 Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship 7:00pm
12/24 No Sunday School
Worship Service 11:00am
Candlelight Service 7:00pm

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.

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

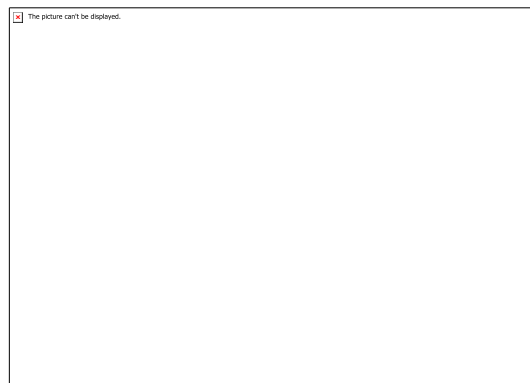
Historic Houses of Worship Tour – December 26th 3:00 – 7:00pm

We are looking for volunteers to host, give tours, and provide cookies for our visitors. We are asking that if you are bringing cookies, please bring 2 dozen to share. Any questions, contact Carol Mooers.



Shirts and Sweatshirts are available to order.

All orders placed no later than December 10th should arrive before Christmas. Order forms are on the table in the chapel or you can find them on-line in our weekly e-mail.



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: _____

Service Credits
December 10
CCLI Number: 6212519

Gathering music: Christmas Carols for Organ. Arr. by Mary McDonald. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence. Seventeenth century French carol. Setting by Benjamin Kolodziej. © 2015 by Concordia Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Thou didst Leave Thy Throne. Red 126.
With Joy Draw Water. NCH 109.
The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore. NCH 115.

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

Choir Anthem: Love Came Down at Christmas. Composed by Maurice C. Whitney (1982). Words by Christina Rossetti (1885).

Offertory: Carol of the Bells. Composed by Mykola Leontovych. Setting by Douglas E. Wagner. © 2014 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. CCLI number: 2366809

Postlude: Angels We Have Heard on High. Traditional French melody. Arr by Mary Macdonald. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co. 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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