

**All (sing): 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.**

***CAROL**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

Black #4

PRAYER OF HOPE

Lector Calvin Livingston

**Ever Faithful God,
You invite us to come, to behold, to believe. You invite
us to sing, to exult, to exalt.
But we confess our resistance and our restlessness. Come to
a shabby stable?
Behold a Baby God? Believe that life is
new? How can this possibly be?
Generous Giver of Life,
this night forgive our doubt, our fear, our complacency. Draw us
close to the manger.
And change us, so we can change the world.
We pray in the powerful name of the Baby. Amen.**

CHORAL REFRAIN

**Gloria in Excelsis Deo
Gloria in Excelsis Deo**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18 — 2:6

Lector Calvin Livingston

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 with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss 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 conceive and bear 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 borne a son; and he named him Jesus. In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

ANTHEM

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night"

Zion Choir

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Zion Church School Children
Written by Barb Hendershot

***CAROL**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Black #126

MORNING PRAYER

The Prayer Jesus Teaches Us

**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.**

OFFERTORY

"This Little Babe"

Benjamin Britton

DOXOLOGY

In the Bleak MidWinter (verse 3)

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Fresh and Faithful God,
this night You startle us with love.
You come to be with us to be for us
to be among us.
And we are grateful.
Holy Life, receive the gifts of our lives.
Heal us with hope. Fill us with
wonder.
And send us to be Good News to the world.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***CAROL**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Black #144

BENEDICTION (in unison)

**This is the season in which the Christ was born.
May the joy of his coming be in our hearts.
May his love fill our souls.
May the hope of the gospel be in us forever.
May we share God's blessing with everyone we meet. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"I Saw Three Ships"

Richard Elliot

Please remain seated until the acolyte has doused the altar candles.

Altar flowers this week are in honor of Zion's youth by Miss Kim

Children's Christmas Pageant dress rehearsal 9:30 this morning.

Please join us in the Chapel after the service for a reception to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Look for the **UCC Christmas Fund** offering envelopes in the bulletin this week and next week. This fund provides care and resources to active and retired clergy, and lay UCC employees for emergency grants, supplementing health premiums, and much more.



Service Workers are collecting twin Size Blankets for Holly House during the month of December. Contact Carol Mooers for more information.



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



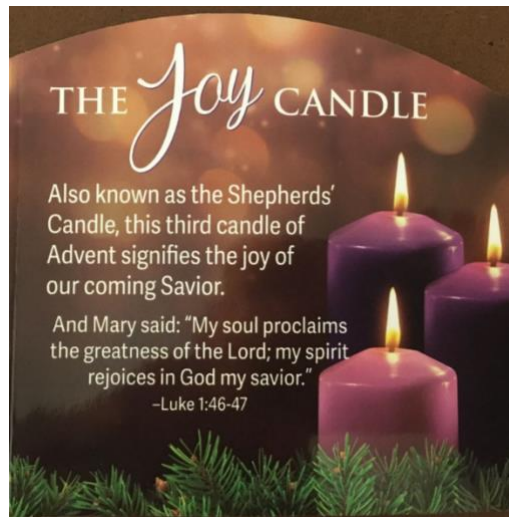
Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Join us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or that have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember 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 Lorfing, Heather Morgan, Annie Penick, James Penick, Mary Pietsch, David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Betsy Roulette, Verna Rosenfield, Emma Schnebly, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, **Felicity Shafer**, Staci Shafer, **Tina Shafer**, Melanie & Wesley (granddaughter and great grandson of Danny Springer), Jessica Stark, Jovan Summers, Thelma Summers, Tracy Roach Walls.

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



The lector this week is Calvin Livingston. The lector next week is Carol Mooers. Ushers for this week are Burnie Clutz, Susan Clutz, Becky Hohman, John Schnebly. Next week's ushers are Frank Ebersole, Carol Moors, Rich Owens, TBD. Greeters for this week are: Front Door – TBD. Middle Door – Jamie Coates.

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



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 12/12 Koda Bell | 12/20 Howard Kaylor |
| 12/17 Charlotte Bagby | 12/21 David Ridenour |
| 12/19 Bebe Winnette | 12/22 Carol Schultz |
| 12/20 Anissa Wade | 12/23 Ralph Sellers |
| | 12/23 Atlee Mooers |

Anniversaries

- 12/12 Wells & Karen Ridenour



Upcoming Events:



- 12/19 Staff Christmas Luncheon and Meeting 12:00 pm
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30 pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
- 12/20 No Wednesday Potluck this week
- 12/21 4-H Club Meeting 4:30 pm
Choir Practice 5:30 pm
Blue Christmas Worship 7:00pm
- 12/24 Worship Service 11:00am
Candlelight Service 7:00pm
- 12/25 Office Closed
- 12/26 Historic Houses of Worship Tour 3:00 – 7:00pm
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30 pm (Downstairs in Fellowship Hall)
- 12/27 No Potluck – Will resume on January 3rd
- 12/31 Sunday School 9:45am
Worship service 11:00am

Wednesday Potluck



There will be no Potluck meeting this week due to the upcoming Christmas holiday. We will resume meeting on January 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



Historic Houses of Worship Tour

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.

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 26
2023
3-7 P.M.







HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP TOUR

Over 10 different historic houses of worship will offer a FREE self-guided tour. Walk or drive to the different sites across the city.

Submit your photos to the Washington County Arts Council for a chance to win a cash prize and to have your photo(s) featured next year!

For inclement weather updates, check www.harccoalition.org, Facebook - Historic Houses of Worship Tour, or WJEJ 12.90.

SPONSORED BY:



Service Credits
December 17
CCLI Number: 6212519

Gathering music: Sonata N. 8 (Patetica), Op. 13. Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven.
© 1949 by Edizioni Curci S. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: A Virgin Most Pure, the Prophets Foretold. Traditional melody. Arr. by Alice Jordan. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You. Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven.
Words by Henry van Dyke (1907). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Angels from the Realms of Glory. Tune: Gloria. French carol melody.
Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. NCH 144. Tune: Mendelssohn.
Composed by Felix Mendelssohn. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

In The Bleak Midwinter. Tune: Cranham Irr, Christina G. Rossetti 1872.
Gustav Holst 1906. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night. Composed by George Frederick Handel. Words by Nahum Tate (1703).

Offertory: "This Little Babe," from the Ceremony of Carols. Composed by Benjamin Britton. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: I Saw Three Ships. Traditional English Carol. Setting by Richard Elliot. © 2007 by Richard L. Elliott. 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: 240-675-3227 | *Email:* pastorwinnette@gmail.com

