

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 1, 2024 – 11:00am Worship



*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. -
Hebrews 10:23*

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Wachet auf!

Johann Ludwig Krebs

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to those on site and those beloveds online.
Communion Sunday.

December 8 Congregational Meeting.
Minute for Mission for Stewardship, Burnie Clutz.

PRELUDE

This Little Babe (from the Ceremony of Carols)

Benjamin Britten

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Come into the place where God listens!
Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes!

All: We come as we are
Broken, whole
Sick, well
Satisfied or with deep needs

One: Come to sing
Come to cry
Come to hear
Come to see
Come and be ready or
Come to be made ready

All: We are here
God is here too

CHORAL REFRAIN

More than Words

(solo verse 1, congregation verses 2 & 3)

Verse

- 1. When twilight leaves the evening sky and night reveals the stars
The far horizon hope of God comes singing to our hearts**
- 2. When bitter days and barren ground sap strength and power and voice
Ten tenacious faith will hold us fast: God's hope will say, rejoice!**
- 3. When rough terrain makes progress hard, God levels what's in the way;
A tender justice will carry us, and care will not delay.**

Refrain

**Your love is more than words, O God, a flame you kindle, a seed you sow, a
Rose that blooms in the snow, and we will magnify your love.**

which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching us.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Light an Advent Candle

Becki Slagle Mayo

WORD FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36 NRSV

Lector: Rae Smith

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

***HYMN**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

GG 93

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Wake, Awake, for Night is Dying. (Sleepers Awake)

J. S. Bach

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.

All: You set the table with plenty of love.

One: Prepare room in your home

All: for my neighbor and me.

One: Prepare a place in your vision

All: for my neighbor and me.

One: Prepare a seat at your table

All: for my neighbor and me.

One: Holy Spirit, you have blessed
these gifts we give.

All: You set the table with plenty of love.

CHORAL REFRAIN

I Come with Joy (verse 1)

GG 515

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Offer your hearts to God.

All: We do, because we know God cares for us.

One: We give thanks to God.

All: God always deserves our thanks and praise.

One: God, yours was the First Thought; before any human lived or knew your name, you
whispered, and creation built itself around your words.

Before your ancient people knew the depth of your love, you promised them goodness, and
led them to freedom.

All: Your love grows unseen.

One: Before the world knew your face, your own child was born in a quiet stable.

All: Your love blooms in the dark.

One: Before we knew the depth of your love, your child died, crucified, and you forgave, and
new life grew in the grave.

All: Your love echoes in the silence.

One: Once you made Mary agelessly blessed. Once you turned turncoat disciples
into the family of the forgiven. You wrote the words for their hope, and they sang the song
of joy. What you have done for them you have also done for us.

On a night of betrayal, Jesus pulled close friends closer to eat with them one last time.

Jesus taught them, Jesus served them, Jesus took bread and said, "This is my body, given
for you, so you can eat it whenever you are hungry and every time you are hungry you can
know my love."

Then Jesus took a cup filled with wine, and said, "My forgiveness is more than words. This
is my blood, poured out for you, so you can drink it to know
that I forgive every sin."

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus. Jesus, we remember you died.

All: We remember.

One: We remember God's love sparked life in your dead body.

All: We remember.

One: We remember you shall return to empty every grave.

All: We remember.

One: And we remember these gifts as we pray the way Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

One: Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness; and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace.
People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

SHARING CHRIST'S ELEMENTS OF LOVE *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* Richard Storrs Willis
What Child is This? Traditional 16th-century English melody Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

One: God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.
All: Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, gentle and unnoticed.
One: But in this place, we have noticed what others do not see.
All: We have tasted your unspoken goodness. And now we will magnify your love. Amen.

*HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

GG 96

SENDING

One: Where is the care in this world?
Where is the faith we were promised?
Where is the hope we desired,
when peace moves into our homes,
and joy is a constant presence,
and justice is for everyone?
**All: God, this world waits to know
that your love is more than words.**
One: People of God,
you have already shared the advent
of God's goodness.
**All: You carry the blessing of God,
God, the First Whisper,
Jesus, the Living Promise,
Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts.**
One: Now go into this world
expecting God's justice
and nurturing God's peace.
All: God, we will magnify your love.

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella Traditional French Carol

Keith Chapman

Liturgy is from, *More Than Words*, © 2024 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. We are utilizing their materials providing for an extended Advent as we prepare for Christmas.

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, Koda Bell, Lon Bender, Brenda Bowers, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, **Richard Cantilena**, Christine Coleman, Kim & Bill Cook, Ron DeYoung, Donna France, Avery Goodrich, Sally Glover, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), **Sue Graff**, Beth Gross, Bonnie Gross (Aunt of Beth Gross), Jim Hatfield, Beth Hauver, Elwood Hauver, Warren Hendershot (Barb's father-in-law), Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Barry Landis, Jerri Livingston, Peggy Lowman, Darrin Miller, Heather Morgan, **Susan Moscato** (Anthony's mother), Mary O'Malley, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), Crystal Reed (Lori Schmidt's daughter-in-law), **Stephanie Resetar**, David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, **Betsy Roulette**, Daisy Schlotterbeck, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, Jessica Stark, Thelma Summers, Gina Tollini (friend of Pastor Katie Penick), Tracy Roach Walls, Erick Wellnitz.

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

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Rae Smith.

Ushers for this week are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens, Rick Waters.

Acolyte for this week is Gia Delosier

Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector next week is Rich Owens.

Next week's ushers are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.

Children's Church leader next week is Susie Clutz.

Mondays are Pastor Scott's day off and he doesn't check emails on this day. In an emergency, please call or text him.

- 12/1 Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:30am
Decorate Christmas Trees 12:00pm Soup, Sandwiches and Hot Chocolate Bar provided
- 12/2 CE Team Meeting 5:30pm
Consistory Meeting 7:00pm
- 12/3 Staff Meeting 11:00am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
- 12/4 Potluck and Devotional 6:00pm
- 12/5 4-H Club Meeting 4:30
Choir Practice 5:30pm

Birthdays

Matthew Cook	12/1
Richard Owens	12/2
John Dwyer	12/5

Anniversaries

Peggy & Bob Lowman	12/7
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Outreach and Service Opportunities

Micah's Backpack will be collecting **Hot Chocolate, Hot Apple Cider** during the month of December. We are also in need of **Scarves, Gloves and Socks** for the children we help.

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting **Oatmeal and other Hot Cereals** for the month of December.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

Other Announcements

Wednesday Night Devotional and Potluck – We will meet Wednesday evening 12/4 at 6:00pm for a potluck dinner, and discussions. We will be discussing "PEACE", the theme of the following Sunday's text. If you would like to join online (Zoom), please let Pastor Scott know.

Congregational Meeting – December 8th after worship – Voting on the Proposed Budget for 2025 and members to the Consistory – Susie Clutz, Calvin Livingston, Rich Owens, Tina Shafer, Rick Waters, and Alyn Wilson.

Bobby Jo Valentine Concert December 8th at 4:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Bring your friends. Concert is free, a good will offering will be appreciated.

Service Credits CCLI Number: 6212519

December 1

- Gathering music: Wachet auf! Composed by Johann Ludwig Krebs. Ó 1978 by N. Simrock. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
- Prelude: This Little Babe (from the Ceremony of Carols). Composed by Benjamin Britten. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
- Hymns: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. GG 88. Tune: Veni Emmanuel. Composed by Thomas Helmore (1852). Ancient Latin text. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
- Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates. GG 93. Tune: Truro. Composed by Musica Sacra (1778). Words by Georg Weissel (1642). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
- On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry. GG 96. Tune: Winchester new. Found in Musikalisches (1847). Words by Charles Coffin (1837). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC. Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).
- Choir Anthem: Light an Advent Candle. Composed by Becki Slagle Mayo. Ó 2007 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Amber Nilson flute. CCLI number: 5073694
- Offertory: Wake, awake, for night is dying. (Sleepers Awake). Composed by J. S. Bach. Ó 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
- Communion: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear. Composed by Richard Storrs Willis. Arr. by Mark Hayes. Ó 2011 by the Lorenz Co. CCLI number: 7024791
- What Child is This? Traditional 16th-century English melody. Arr. by Mark Hayes. Ó 2011 by the Lorenz Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.
- Postlude: Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella. Traditional French Carol. Arr. By Keith Chapman. Ó 1976 by McAfee Music Corp. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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.*



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

Welcome to the Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, an **Open and Affirming Church** striving to welcome and value all people and creation. I am glad you have joined us 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. I encourage you to ask me or our members about our community, explore our bulletin and website and gift us with your contact information (phone, address, email) in our Guest Book or Pew Card. I/we are ready to answer any question or to help connect you to any program that we can. I hope to greet you in person after the service or that you'll contact me.

Many blessings, Pastor Scott

To Give Electronically

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

201 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: 301.739.7244 | Email: zionrucc@myactv.net

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

Join us via Zoom: Meeting ID: 876 0291 7867 Password: Peace

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette, Pastor

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

