

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 11:00am Worship

Christmas Pageant

Worship with Joy



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord

Luke 2:11

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Adagio from Sonata Op. 2
Adagio from Sonata Op. 13

Ludwig Van Beethoven
Ludwig Van Beethoven

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to those on site and those beloveds online.

Beethoven's Birthday (born in 1770, the same year our church got its first settled pastor)

Christmas Caroling, Cookie Exchange, Historic House of Worship Tour

PRELUDE

A Virgin Most Pure, the Prophets Foretold

Alice Jordan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Ridenour Family

One: Each of our Advent candles
represents God's generous goodness,
the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift,
the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy.

As we light each candle,
we recognize the gifts
God has given us this week.

**All: Joy ebbs and flows each day, holy God.
so we pray to you in honesty.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions!
Though we know your story,
we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of
Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world- not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas

Zion Choir

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Introduction

Scene 1 – Care

CAROL

GG 127

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (verse 1)

Scene 2 – Faith

Scene 3 – Joy

CAROL

Go Tell it on the Mountain (verses 1 & 2)

GG 136

Scene 4 – Hope

Scene 5 – Peace

Scene 6 – Joy

LULLABY

Away In The Manger (verse 1)

GG 115

Finale - Love

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR APPLAUSE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Von Himmel Hoch (From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

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 (in unison)

**Fresh and Faithful God,
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.**

***HYMN**

Joy To The World

GG 135

BENEDICTION

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

Noel, Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

The Liturgy and Pageant Script are from, *More Than Words*, © 2024 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission.

We give thanks to the children of the church and the Christian Education Committee and all adult help in producing this Christmas Pageant. Special accolades to Megan Shroyer and Barb Hendershot. We give thanks to the speaking cast and all the players.

Pastor: Pastor Scott

John: Finn

Gabriel: Alyn

Mary: Gia

Joseph: Toby

Zachariah: Jax

Lyrael: William

Shepards: Kristin/Mark

Donkeys: Brynn and Liliana

Angel: Jaime

Sheep: Misha and Calvin

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, Pat Brackett,** Linda Cantilena, **Richard Cantilena,** Christine Coleman, Kim & Bill Cook, Donna France, Avery Goodrich, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), **Sue Graff,** Beth Gross, Jim Hatfield, Beth Hauver, Elwood Hauver, **The Family of Warren Hendershot** (Barb's father-in-law), Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Barry Landis, **Daniel Livingston,** Jerri Livingston, **Susan Lohman,** Peggy Lowman, Darrin Miller, **Bonnie Minoglio-Toms** (friend of Barb & Charley Ware), Heather Morgan, **The Family of Susan Moscato** (Anthony's mother), Mary O'Malley, Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), Crystal Reed (Lori Schmidt's daughter-in-law), **The Family of Stephanie Resetar** (Daughter of Karen & Wells Ridenour), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, **Betsy Roulette,** Daisy Schlotterbeck, Ralph & Scherry Sellers, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, Jessica Stark, Thelma Summers, Tracy Roach Walls.

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

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Wells Ridenour, but due to the Christmas Pageant we will not have scripture readings.

Ushers for this week are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons
Acolyte for this week is Gia Delosier

Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector next week is Amber Nilson

Next week's ushers are Burnie Clutz, Susie Clutz, Becky Hohman, John Schnebly

Next Week's Children's Church leader is Megan Shroyer

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

12/15 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:00am

Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30am

Children's Christmas Pageant 11:00am

12/17 Staff Meeting 11:00am

Lighthouse After-School Steering Committee Meeting 12:00pm

Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm

12/18 Potluck and Devotional are taking a Holiday break and will meet again on Jan, 8, 2025

12/19 4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm

Choir Practice 5:30pm

Birthdays

Scherry Sellers

12/15

Howard Kaylor

12/20

Bebe Winnette

12/19

Anissa Wade

12/20

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.

Christmas Eve falls on a Tuesday this year. Our volunteer group for that week will not be able to cook and serve the meal. We need volunteers to help out with this. If you are available, please contact Kim Ridenour or the church office. There will be no Food Pantry Christmas Eve.

Other Announcements

Wednesday Night Devotional and Potluck – With the busy holiday schedule upon us, we have decided to postpone the Wednesday Night Devotional and Potluck until the new year. Our next get together will be January 8, 2025.

Cookie Exchange - Join us after worship on December 22nd for a wonderful time of exchanging Christmas goodies! Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies for the exchange and be prepared to go home with an assortment of cookies. The extra cookies will be shared with Zion's guests for the Historic Houses of Worship Tour.

Christmas Eve Service – Join us for our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm

Historic Houses of Worship Tour – Once again we will be participating in the Historic Houses of Worship Tour on December 26th from 3:00 – 7:00pm. We are looking to volunteers to greet our visitors, handle refreshments, and give tours of our church. If you can help, please contact the church office.



Service Credits
CCLI Number: 6212519
December 15

Gathering music: Adagio from Sonata Op. 2.

Adagio from Sonata Op. 13. Composed by Ludwig Van Beethoven. (Beethoven was born on this day in 1770, the year Zion was founded. He was baptized on the 16th. 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 Thee. GG 611. 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.

Joy to the World. GG 134. Composed by Georg Frederick Handel. Words by Isaac Watts (1719). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem: Love Came Down at Christmas. Composed by Maurice C. Whitney (1962). Words by Christina Rossetti.

Offertory: Von Himmel Hoch (From Heaven Above to Earth I Come). Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Noel, Suisse. Composed by Louis-Claude Daquin. © Belwin Mills Publishing Corp. Performed by 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

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

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

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette, Pastor

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