

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 22, 2024 – 11:00am Worship



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another"
John 13:34

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Christmas Carols for Organ

Mary McDonald

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to those on site and those beloveds online.

Cookie Exchange 12/22

Christmas Fund

Christmas Eve Service

PRELUDE

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

John Baptiste Calkin

*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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (verse 1)

GG 129

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: Your love grows unseen, holy God;
we prepare for you every day.**

***HYMN**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GG 113

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**God, we want a faith that feels
like more than words,
but we lack your power
to embody goodness.
We hear your call to serve others
yet feel too worn out to make the food.
We hunger to taste justice
but fear the burning spice of the meal.
We want our place at your table
but resist sitting beside a stranger.
We have lost our appetites
for mere thoughts and prayers,
but we fail to match
our intentions to our actions.
Forgive us and restore us
with the healing wholeness of your presence.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: My friends,
God knows you are imperfect.
But God did not invite you here today
for what you have done
or how you have behaved.
God loves you.
God always cared
much more for you
than for your shortcomings.
God forgives you
all your sins.

One: We accept God's forgiveness.

All: We accept God's forgiveness.

One: We take our place in God's purpose.

All: We take our place in God's purpose. Amen.

CHORAL REFRAIN

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (verse 2)

GG 129

SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:6-8

Lector: Amber Nilson

'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?
One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching us.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

Zion Choir

WORD FOR CHILDREN**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:39-55

Lector: Amber Nilson

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON***HYMN***O Little Town of Bethlehem*

GG 121

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**OFFERTORY***While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Anna Laura Page

***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.

MORNING PRAYER

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.**

***HYMN**

The First Noel

GG 147

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.

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Amber Nilson

Ushers for this week are Burnie Clutz, Susie Clutz, Becky Hohman, John Schnebly

Acolyte for this week is Gia Delosier

Greeter for this week is Becky Hohman at Front Door

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

Next Week's Worship & Calendar

The lector next week is Barb Hendershot

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, 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), **The Family of Mary O'Malley (friend of Wells & David Ridenour)**, 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.***

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 22

Gathering music: Christmas Carols for Organ. Composed by Mary McDonald. © 2019 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

Prelude: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day. Composed by John Baptiste Calkin. Arr. by Mark Hayes. © 2011 by the Lorenz Corp. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Angels We Have Heard on High. GG 113. Tune: Gloria. French carol. Words by James Chadwick (1860). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

O Little Town of Bethlehem. GG 121. Tune: St. Louis. Composed by Lewis Henry Redner (1868). Words by Phillips Brooks (1868). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

The First Noel. GG 147. Tune: Nowell. English carol. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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

Choir Anthem: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime. Words by Jean de Brebeuf.

Offertory: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks. From Harmonia Sacra (1812). Arr. by Anna Laura Page. © 2012 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Composed by Felix Mendelssohn. Arr. by Dan Miller. © 2001 by Birnamwood Publications. 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.