

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 29, 2024 – 11:00am Worship



GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Traditional Carol Medley

Barb Hendershot

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appreciation for Barb Hendershot's musical leadership.
Historic Houses of Worship Tour

PRELUDE

Come All Ye Shepherds

Barb Hendershot

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Fill the air with Christmas praise!

All: Praise the Holy of the heavens; praise in the heights! Praise all angels; all host!

One: Praise Abba, sun and moon; all you shining stars, you highest heavens, you waters above the heavens!

All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars. Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

One: Queens of the earth and all peoples, old and young together!

All: Praise the name of the Christ, his glory is above earth and heaven.

*HYMN

Brightest and Best

NCH 157

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

One: Glorious God, who is born among us, we praise and worship you this day. You share our humanity; you enter into the struggle of our lives, bringing us life and love. We thank you for your presence, here with us now. We praise you for the gift of your Spirit, the Spirit of Christ born among us.

You make yourself vulnerable for the sake of our salvation. You put yourself into the hands of frail humans and trust us to care. You show us all what we can be, inviting humankind to be loving, faithful, and just.

All: Receive our adoration, for you delight us with love and grace. May our worship honor you. May we delight you with our praise. May our words, thoughts, and songs bring you pleasure. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

CHORAL REFRAIN

Joyful, Joyful (verse 1)

GG 611

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 148 The Inclusive Psalms

Lector: Rick Waters

Alleluia!

Praise Our God from the heavens,
praise God in the heights!
Praise God, all you angels,
praise God, all you hosts!
Praise God, sun and moon,
praise God, all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the Name of Our God,
by whose command they were created.
God established them forever and ever
and gave a decree which won't pass away.

Praise Our God from the earth,
you sea creatures and ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and mist,
and storm winds that fulfill God's word,
mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
small animals and flying birds,
rulers of the earth, leaders of all nations,
all the judges in the world,
young men and young women,
old people and children—
let them all praise the Name of Our God
whose Name alone is exalted,
whose majesty transcends heaven and earth,
and who has raised up a Horn for God's people
to the praise of the faithful,
the children of Israel, the people dear to God!
Alleluia!

WORD FOR CHILDREN

Barb Hendershot

SPECIAL MUSIC*If Not Now, Tell Me When*

Rae Smith with Carrie Newcomer

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52 The Inclusive Bible

Lector: Rick Waters

The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when Jesus was twelve, they went up for the celebration as was their custom. As they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, unbeknownst to Mary and Joseph. Thinking Jesus was in their caravan, they continued their journey for the day, looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances. Not finding Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day, they came upon Jesus in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were astonished, and Mary said, "Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been so worried, looking for you." Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Abba's house?" But they didn't understand what he told them. Then Jesus went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. Mary stored these things in her heart, and Jesus grew in wisdom, in years and in favor with God and people alike.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What an Ordinary Surprise

HYMNWhat Child is This*

GG 145

OFFERTORY**DOXOLOGY***Good Christian Friends Rejoice* (verse 2)

GG 132

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)**

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word, who became flesh to dwell among us. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHORAL REFRAIN*Joyful, Joyful* (verse 2)

GG 611

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.**

***HYMN**

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

GG 127

***BENEDICTION**

One: Go now as a light to the nations.

Honor the Holy;
preach what you know of the living love of the Babe,
and fulfil all righteousness.

And may God strengthen you and bless you with peace;
May Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you;
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you
and affirm you as God's beloved ones.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Traditional Carol

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, 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 Mary O'Malley (friend of Wells & David Ridenour), Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), Crystal Reed (Lori Schmidt's daughter-in-law), 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 Rick Waters

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 Burnie Clutz

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

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

12/29 Children' Sunday School 9:45am
Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30am
12/31 Staff Meeting 11:00am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
01/01 Office Closed for New Year Day
01/02 Property Team Meeting 1:00pm
Executive Team Meeting 2:00pm
4-H Club Meeting 4:30pm
Choir Practice 5:30pm
01/03 Youth Kick Off 5:30pm at Zion

Birthdays

Mackenzie Ridenour 12/29
Brian Johnson 1/3

Anniversaries

Claire-Marie Moblard & Byron Stay 01/01
LoriBeth & Kenlin Martin 01/01

Outreach and Service Opportunities

Micah's Backpack will be collecting **Noodle Soup and Vegetable Soup** during the month of January.

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting **Peanut Butter** for the month of January.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

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.

Chili Cook-Off and Quiz Bowl - Zion Youth invite you to support this fundraiser for the Youth's Summer Mission Trip. On January 18th from 6:00-9:00pm we gather in the Chapel for the First Annual Chili Cook-Off and Quiz Bowl.



Service Credits
CCLI Number: 6212519
December 29

Gathering music: Medley of Traditional Christmas Carols. Performed by Barbara Hendershot of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Come All Ye Shepherds. Czech Carol translated by Mari Ruef Hofer (1912). © Robins Music Corp. (1969). Performed by Barbara Hendershot of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Brightest and Best. Reginald Heber (1811). Tune: Morning Star by James P. Harding (1892). © Public Domain. Performed by Barbara Hendershot of Zion Reformed UCC. NCH 157.

What Child Is This. William Chatterton Dix (1871). © Public Domain. Performed by Barbara Hendershot of Zion Reformed UCC. GG145

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing. Charles Wesley (1739). George D. Elderkin (1890). © GIA Publications Inc. (2000). GG 127

Special music: If Not Now, Tell Me When. Words and Music by Carrie Newcomer, Arrangement by Gary Walters. Performed by Rae Simth of Zion Reformed UCC.

Offertory: I Wonder As I Wander. Appalachian Tune. Arr. Amy Potter © 2016. Performed by Barbara Hendershot of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: The Snow Lay on the Ground. Traditional Tune © Robins Music Corp. (1969). Performed by Barbara Hendershot 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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Join us via Zoom: Meeting ID: 876 0291 7867 Password: Peace

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette, Pastor

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