



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
November 30, 2025

*To share the gospel of Christ
in such a way that we find God,
grow our faith, discover our purpose
and make a difference.*

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please help decorate for Advent/Christmas.

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is our Advent, the time when we remember God is urgently waiting to finally arrive.
God, we have been waiting for you, too.

**Yet you often arrive before we notice:
in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.**

Right before you change a life, your angels always say, "Do not be afraid."

You are here to change this place.

We are not afraid. Amen.

*HYMN

God of Starlight and Moon, Verse 1

God of the Starlight and Moon

1. God of the star - light and moon, mys - ter - y God of the
2. Beau - ty be - yond what we know, shap - ing a world that we
3. Out of the blue you ar - rive, weav - ing our lives with your

mid - night blue skies. Love draw - ing near,
can - not quite see. Form of a child,
con - stant sur - prise. Flick - er - ing flame,

dream - ing new fu - tures: fire of our hearts, a - rise.
reach - ing to greet us: time in e - ter - ni - ty.
spark - ling with prom - ise: God of the star - lit skies.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lisa and Jerry Saum

In slowly receding shadow, that which once seemed frightening now appears recognizable, even familiar.

This candle on our Advent wreath represents our burgeoning confidence as God's promises take shape around us, transforming the terrifying into the comforting.

In time we will understand every shadowy angle of God's ancient promises.

But not yet, not fully.

***HYMN** Red 126

Thou didst Leave Thy Throne

PRAYER OF HOPE

God is here, and God sees through every defense that fools the world. Since we cannot hide from God, there is nothing left to do but to be honest with each other and humble before God.

So, in humility, we confess our sins.

God, we have acted helpless, even when you called us to action. We have resisted your truth, even when our lies were exhausting. We have behaved as though we were alone, even when you were beside us. God, we have believed we were dying, even when you helped us grow.

God knows we can never undo the sins of this world.

The stories of a painful past still echo here today.

Yet before our first mistakes, God perfected the plan for salvation. God forgives your sins, all of them. Even when signs of our old lives remain, God's forgiveness is still at work.

God sets us free to chart a new path. Amen and Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of Adonai. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the

truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas

WORD FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Psalm 77

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that Amma may hear me. In the day of my trouble I seek God; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. **I think of God, and I moan; I meditate, and my spirit faints. You keep my eyelids from closing; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. I consider the days of old, and remember the years of long ago. I commune with my heart in the night; I meditate and search my spirit:**

"Will God spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has God's steadfast love ceased forever? Are God's promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has God in anger shut up compassion?"

And I say, "It is my grief that the right hand of the Most High has changed." I will call to mind the deeds of God; I will remember your wonders of old. I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples.

With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; the very deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side.

The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON Anyway Praying

Rev. Dr. E. Scott Winnette

*HYMN Purple 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

MORNING PRAYER

THE PRAYER THAT 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.
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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us: our money and our time and our families and our freedom. Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing was a treasure we had taken from your open hand. We thought such treasures were ours to earn and to own. You grow what we give away. So we give you these gifts as a sign of your love and faithfulness.

Offertory

A Virgin Most Pure, the Prophets Foretold

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)

Gracious God, you have performed miracles and set a table before us. You have brought us together into one community, making sure we have enough. Today, we offer these gifts as our commitment to work and dream with you. We pray that you can use them to realize your dream in which all are known, all are loved, and all are fed. In your name we pray, Amen.

*HYMN Purple 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*BENEDICTION

As you leave from this place, adjust your expectations to God's promises.

There is friendship after loneliness, **there is hope after every last breath.**

There is already life in the desert. There is even delight in decline.

For we tell the story of new life from the grave.

In the world drained of color **God arrives out of the blue.**

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch

Remain seated until the altar candles are doused.

The asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand in body or spirit.

The BOLDFACE indicates when the congregation is invited to speak in unison.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Decorate Christmas Trees 12:00pm

The lector this week is Burnie Clutz.

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

This week's Children's Church leader is Becky Hohman.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector for next week is Rae Smith.

Next week's ushers are Frank Ebersole, Carol Mooers, Rich Owens, Rick Waters.

12/2 Staff Meeting 11:00am

Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm

12/3 Potluck & Bible Study 6:00pm

12/4 Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm

12/7 Sunday School for Adults and Young Adult Classes 9:45am

Children's Choir Practice 10:30am

Sunday Worship 11:00am

Children's Church 11:00am

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:45 Adult Sunday School – In-person and Zoom
 Children's Sunday School Class
 Young Adult Class/Bible Study - Second and Fourth Sundays of the month
- 10:30 Children's Choir in the Music Room
- 10:35 Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary and virtually at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive
 Children's Church – every other week
- 12:00 Fellowship

OPPORTUNITIES

EASY-CISE CLASS

Join us at 9:00am on the second Saturday of each month for our Easy-cise Class. Easy-Cise is a resistance-based fitness class that helps with core and arm workouts designed for beginners, those with limited mobility, or anyone who prefers seated exercises.

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| Nov. 30 | Chris Emmert |
| Dec. 1 | Matthew Cook |
| Dec. 2 | Rich Owens |
| Dec. 5 | John Dwyer |

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, Becky Arnemann (caretaker for the Keefer family), Eddie Barr, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, Kim & Bill Cook, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, Beth Hauver, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), Dee Krause, Vicki Krouse (friend of Barb Ware), Mary Lorfing, Trish Lowman, Teresa Moats (friend of Christine Coleman), Margaret Munroe, Craig Nilson (Curtis Nilson's father), Pastor Mary Norville, Marissa Palmer (friend of Carol Schultz), George & Mary Pietsch (Rae's daughter and son-in-law), Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Angie Schaff, Staci Shafer, Tina Shafer, Mary Stann (friend of Kim Ridenour), Cheryl (sister of Colleen Rafferty), The Family of Kodi Taylor, Traci Van Vogelpoel, Randy Waters (Rick Waters' brother), Christel, Christoph, and Anna Wolbring (friends of Kim Ridenour), Eric Wolbring, Angela Yamashita, and Barry Yingling.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting Hot Chocolate and Hot Cider for the month of November. We are also in need of empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes.

Micah's Backpack is collecting Individual Packets of Oatmeal for the month of November. 4-H Community Outreach project this fall is collecting new socks from October 5 – November 16th.

The Leadership Club has challenged all the clubs to collect socks and the club with the most socks wins a Club Pizza party. Zion will you help the Downtown 4-H Club try to raise the most socks?

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.

Service Credits CCLI Number: 6212519 November 30

Gathering Music: *Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme*. Composed by Johann Ludwig Krebs. © 1978 by N. Simrock. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: *Still, Still, Still*. Traditional Austrian Carol. Arr. by Jason W. Krug. © 2022 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: *Thou didst Leave Thy Throne*. Red 126. Tune: Margaret. Composed by Timothy R. Matthews (1876). Words by Emily E. S. Elliott (1864). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Purple 88. Tune: Veni Emmanuel. Composed by Thomas Helmore (1852). Latin, 9 th century. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus. Purple 82. Tune: Hyfrydol. Composed by Rowland Hugh Pritchard. Words by Charles Wesley (1744). 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 G. Rossetti (1885).

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

Postlude: *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*. Traditional French Carol. Arr. by Keith Chapman. © 1976 by McAfee Music. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

