

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor
Pastor Jeff Kardisco, Designated Pastor
Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Organist, Accompanist & Children's Music Coordinator

First Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM

8:00 AM &

ADVENT CONSPIRACY: WORSHIP FULLY
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today we celebrate we begin our Advent journey. Each week, we will explore a different theme: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love all. This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper. Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.

If you are a guest, thank you for worshipping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary. We pray God's blessing upon you.

For today's service, we will be using both the black hymnal.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

The King Shall Come

by Thomson

THE FAMILIAR STORY

Jesus

Matt Grimes

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING ~ THE CANDLE OF HOPE¹

Mary, Nazareth girl: What did you know of ethereal beings with messages from God? What did you know of men when you found yourself with child? What did you know of babies, you, barely out of childhood yourself? God-chosen girl: What did you know of God that brought you to this stable blessed among women? Could it be that you had been ready waiting, listening, for the footsteps of an angel? Could it be there are messages for us if we have the faith to listen?

ALL SING²: Star-Child, earth-Child, go between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod, This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: The Candle of Hope now shines. For when our hope is in the words of an angel to a young, ordinary girl... the promise of Jesus,

ALL: nights of darkness give way to morning light.

L: When our hope is in the promise of Jesus

ALL: seeds of hatred are dispersed by wings of love.

L: When our hope is in the promise of Jesus

ALL: hours of busyness are calmed by moments of peace.

L: When our hope is in the promise of Jesus

ALL: thoughts of self are blown away by the breath of a baby.

L: Jesus is our Hope.

ALL: We put our hope in Jesus who was born for our salvation

ALL SING²: Grown child, old child, memory full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears, This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

ALL: Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (Hymn No. 119, verses 1 & 5, page 5)

ALL SING: My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways. Praise God, who loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55
MESSAGE Worship Fully

HYMN NO. 121 (black hymnal) *All Earth is Waiting*

JOYS & CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(10:30 AM) **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM** *Advent Prayer* arr. Liebergen

OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter with Winter Snow* arr. Tornquist

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 128 (black hymnal, v. 4) *In the Bleak Midwinter*

ALL SING: What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but what can I offer: all my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

L: God's banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East West, and South.

P: A banquet where the rich and powerful sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb."

L: Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, and so all who wish to know Christ better are welcome to eat and drink from it.

P: Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is with us.

P: We are not alone.

L: Christ is present here.

P: The Spirit moves within us.

L: Let us give thanks to God,

P: in memory and in hope.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: Blessings be to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

P: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.

L: Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song, you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

P: They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

L And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way.

P: Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus. Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.

L: And now, as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

P: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

THE STORY REMEMBERED

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

This morning we will be serving communion by intinction. For those who are able, please proceed down the center aisle. Take a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup and eat. In lieu of dipping in the cup, you may choose to take a small cup from the communion tray. When you are done, simply proceed back to your seat through the outer aisles. If you have mobility struggles, please tell a neighbor or a welcome team member that you need assistance, and the elements will be brought to you at your seat. All of the chalices and small cups contain grape juice.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: God of expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have shared at your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.

**Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.*

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 107** (black hymnal)
Morn

Awake! Wake, and Greet the New

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

by Balcombe

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

We welcome infants and children in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

We offer a hearing assistance system called *Listen Technologies*. If you would like to use a receiver, please check with the volunteers at the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Baby Jack Bicher's birthday with love from Mommy and Daddy.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Jim and Brenda Beyer's 50th Anniversary by Nancy and Jeff Sleeper.

Thank you to our Worship Choir for performing during the 10:30 AM service today. Thank you to Matt Grimes for his participation in the monologue.

Thank you to the Advent Worship Planning Team for planning today's service. The team members are: Jen Cooper, Dani Kardisco, Steph Beyer, Scott Gyenes, and Pastor Danielle.

8 AM Sound Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

8 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

8 AM Welcome Team & Communion Servers: Danika & Drew Dallam, Tim Snyder, Kathy Ensminger

8 AM Worship Tech: Ken Dunbar

10:30 AM Acolyte: Weston Wagaman

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ron Miles

10:30 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

10:30 AM Welcome Team & Communion Servers: Jim Shiffer, Jim Beyer, Anne Henry, Tori Everhart, & Jen Cooper

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Bonnie Dull

¹ The Advent Candlelighting utilizes the poem "Mary, Nazareth Girl" by Ann Weems from Kneeling in Bethlehem, ©1993. The monologues utilized throughout the season of Advent were written collaboratively by Jen Cooper and Pastor Danielle. They were based on the book Mary's First Christmas by Walter Wangerin, Jr. ©1998, Zondervan Publishing House.

² The Faith We Sing- No. 2095, *Star-Child*, ©1977 H.W. Grey Co. c/o Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp., admin. by Warner Brothers Publications. CCLI License #3220582

³ The prayers of confession utilized throughout the season of Advent were written by Steph Beyer.

⁴ The Faith We Sing-No. 2249, *God Claims You*, ©1981 Stanley M. Farr. CCLI License #3220582.