

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

Second Sunday of Advent
AM

8:00 AM & 10:30

ADVENT CONSPIRACY: SPEND LESS

Today we continue our Advent journey. Each week, we will explore a different theme: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love all. If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping 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 the black hymnal.

WELCOME
PRELUDE

Child of the Poor

by Soper

THE FAMILIAR STORY *Mary & 12 year old Jesus* Jen Cooper & Hayden Dallam

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING ~ THE CANDLE OF PEACE¹

In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not. When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience our own advent in his. When we are Bethlehem-bound we can no longer look the other way conveniently not seeing stars, not hearing angel voices. We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms. This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees, let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel, let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

ALL SING² (see insert): 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 and Peace now shine. As we await the coming of Emmanuel, God With Us, we see in this light the truth that because God is with us, we know peace.

ALL: Nights of darkness give way to morning light.

L: When we give our hearts to the Prince of Peace,

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

L: When we give our hearts to the Prince of Peace,

ALL: hours of busyness are quieted by moments of calm.

L: When we give our hearts to the Prince of Peace,

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

L: Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

ALL: Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, was born for our salvation.

ALL SING² (see insert): Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine, 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 Christmas Peace, we are caught up in the pressures and stresses of the holiday season. Pursued by the temptation to spend our funds, our energy, our spirits; we feel that there is no peace or rest in the world. Lord of light and peace, shine on us this day. Forgive us when we have so easily succumbed to the anxieties and fears and temptations of the season. Slow us down. Calm our spirits. Give us an awareness that this is the season of waiting and preparation. Pour peace into our lives and help us to be bearers of peace to others. For we ask this in Jesus' precious name. 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 Matthew 2:1-8
MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 116 (black hymnal)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

(10:30 AM) **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**
Martin

An Advent Credo

by

OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Waiting in Silence

by Landry

*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

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 101** (black hymnal)

Comfort, Comfort O My People

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

On Jordan's Bank

arr.

Hopson

*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 Jason and Matt Barshinger's birthdays by Mom, Dad, Pap & Isabella

One vase of altar flowers is presented with all glory to God with thanks for 50 wonderful years of marriage by Jim & Brenda Beyer.

The bulletins are presented in honor of our granddaughter Allison Marie's third birthday with love, by Nana & Pop-pop (Jim and Sue Shiffer).

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

8 AM Acolyte: Holt Dallam

8 AM Sound Tech: Jack Herlocker

8 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

8 AM Welcome Team: Kim Shaffer, Scott Cooper, Drew & Danika Dallam

8 AM Worship Tech: Mary Jane Snyder

10:30 AM Acolyte: Maddie Gyenes

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ron Miles

10:30 AM Video Tech: Elaine Bevivino

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Jen Cooper

10:30 AM Worship Tech: John Schriver

10:30 AM Nursery & WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

¹ The Advent Candlelighting utilizes the poem "In Search of Our Kneeling Places" 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.