

# *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

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

## **ADVENT CONSPIRACY: GIVE MORE**

*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**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

arr. Berry

## **THE FAMILIAR STORY**

*Mary & 6 year old Jesus*

Dani Kardisco & Sam Neff

## **ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING ~ THE CANDLE OF JOY<sup>1</sup>**

*What do I want for Christmas? I want to kneel in Bethlehem, the air thick with alleluias, the angels singing that God is born among us. In the light of the Star, I want to see them come, the wise ones and the humble. I want to see them come bearing whatever they treasure to lay at the feet of him who gives his life. What do I want for Christmas? To see in that stable the whole world kneeling in thanks for a promise kept: new life. For in his nativity, we find ours.*

**ALL SING<sup>2</sup> (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 Joy now shines. For when our hearts fill with joy in the promise of a Savior,

**ALL: nights of darkness give way to morning light.**

L: When our hearts fill with joy in the promise of a Savior,

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

L: When our hearts fill with joy in the promise of a Savior,

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

L: When our hearts fill with joy in the promise of a Savior,

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

L: Our hearts are filled with joy in the promise of a new life.

**ALL: For in the joy of His Nativity, we find ours.**

**ALL SING<sup>2</sup> (see insert):** Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store, This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

### **\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>

**ALL:** Loving and gracious God, you are so patient with us. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world does not see you. We have not followed you and have ignored your teachings. We have lived lives of apathy against your love. We have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin. Free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (Hymn No. 119, verses 1 & 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 1:1-25  
**MESSAGE**

**HYMN NO. 105** (black hymnal)

*Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear*

## **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.

(8 AM) **JUBILATION ANTHEM** *We Are Waiting* by Albrecht, Wesley, Althouse

(10:30 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** *O Holy Night* arr. Hayes

Piano: Jackson Kollasch

## **OFFERING**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Comfort Ye My People*

by Handel

\*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. 102** (black hymnal)

*O How Shall I Receive You*

\***BENEDICTION**

\***POSTLUDE**

*Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

by Walther

\*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 Danika, Holt & Hayden Dallam's December birthday by Drew Dallam.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Allison Marie's third birthday with love, by Nana & Pop-pop (Sue and Jim 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: Hayden Dallam

8 AM Sound Tech: Ryan Neal

8 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

8 AM Welcome Team: Drew & Danika Dallam, Norman & Ivy Leach

8 AM Worship Tech: Jim Shiffer

10:30 AM Acolyte: Ellery Wagaman

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Tom Mulligan

10:30 AM Video Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Team Gyenes

10:30 AM Worship Tech:

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

<sup>1</sup> The Advent Candlelighting utilizes the poem "What Do I Want for Christmas" 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.

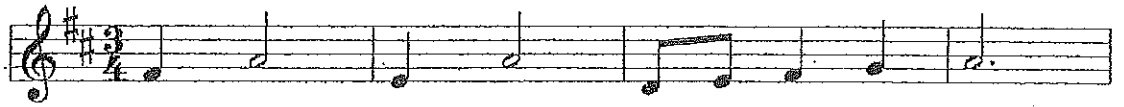
<sup>2</sup> The Faith We Sing- No. 2095, *Star-Child*, ©1977 H.W. Grey Co. c/o Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp., admin. by Warner Brothers Publications. CCLI License #3220582

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

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

# Star-Child

2095



1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
3. Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pend - ous sign,

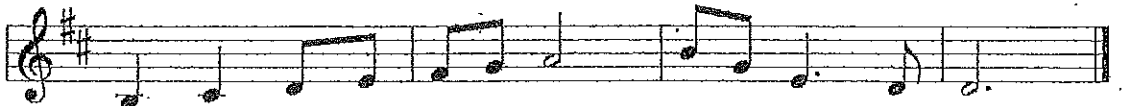


love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod,  
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,  
sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears,  
wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store,  
down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

### *Refrain*



This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when



Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (Matt. 2:1-12)

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young

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STAR CHILD  
45.45 with Refrain



# O How Shall I Receive You

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; and others; alt.

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;  
 3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

*As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.*

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.  
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)  
 Melchior Teschner, 1615