

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
ADVENT CONSPIRACY: LOVE ALL

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 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 the black hymnal.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Mt. Zion's Brass Ensemble

WELCOME

Welcoming Love Into the World

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Love Will Be Born

by Larson

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Christmas Welcome

by Beck

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: All creation holds its breath.

P: The time is almost here.

L: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

P: Excitement is all around us.

L: Prepare your hearts- The grace of God takes on human form. Emmanuel, God-with-us, comes to us.

P: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***OPENING HYMN** (see insert)

Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Away in a Manger

THE FAMILIAR STORY

Mary and Baby Jesus

Emily Schriver

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING ~ THE CANDLE OF LOVE¹

Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons. The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem or in Times Square, for Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way to Jerusalem-- determinedly, inevitably-- Even now it comes in the face of hatred and warring-- no atrocity too terrible to stop it, no Herod strong enough, no hurt deep enough, no curse shocking enough, no disaster shattering enough. For someone on earth will see the star, someone will hear the angel voices, someone will run to Bethlehem, someone will know peace and goodwill: the Christ will be born!

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!

L: The Candle of Hope now shines. Christmas comes when we see God in others. For when the human and the holy meet,

ALL: nights of darkness give way to morning light.

L: The Candle of Peace now shines. Christmas comes when we see God in others. For when the human and the holy meet,

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

L: The Candle of Joy now shines. Christmas comes when we see God in others. For when the human and the holy meet,

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

L: The Candle of Love now shines. Christmas comes when we see God in others. For when the human and the holy meet,

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

L: God's hope, peace, joy, and love are coming. For when the human and the holy meet,

ALL: all things are possible.

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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!

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!

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: Merciful God, in a stable, surrounded by the humble and the ignoble, You gave your Love to the world. Your perfect Love was born. Unconditional love poured out for all. In the days to come, remind us of your love and grace. Forgive us for being ungrateful. And in humility and hope, we ask for your help to do better, to reconcile, to heal, so we may follow you. Forgive our doubts and renew our hopes in Christ, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior. We know that you love us and call us back to you, to Love, to your Light. Give us a new song to sing, that will resound throughout this world, and begin with us today. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Titus 3:3-7)

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, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Proclaiming God's Love Born Unto Us

SCRIPTURE 1 John 4:7-21

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM *Come, Lord of Love* arr. Page

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM *Love Like a Winter Rose* by Carter, Beall

SPECIAL MUSIC *When Love Was Born* by Herms, Schultz, Lewis

HYMN⁴ (see insert) *When Love Crossed Over*

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM *See Amid the Winter's Snow* by Forrest

Sharing God's Love With the World

OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAISE BAND OFFERTORY⁴ *Heaven Everywhere* by Battistelli

*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

* **HYMN NO. 140** (black hymnal) *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

PRAISE BAND ANTHEM⁴ *Christmas This Year* by Barlowe, Frasure, McKeehan

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Love Came Down at Christmas* by Burrows

POSTLUDE *Gloria* by Mozart

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Thank you to all who participated in the Cantata!

Worship Choir

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Debbie Butcher	Ellie Arnold	Tom Bair	Carl "Red"
Barb Everhart	Paula Beever	Dave Firestone	Arnold
Doris Loucks	Brenda Beyer	Norman Leach	Braden Bicher
Dani Kardisco	Helen Burns	Michael Maletz	Tom Green
Barbara Neff	Nancy A Kinard		Les Loucks
Joann Snyder			

Praise Band

Cora Beyer	Sydney Cooper	Wyatt Cunningham
Mason DeMers	Jackson Kollasch	

Brass Ensemble

Olivia Daugherty	George DeMers	Mike Ferree
Matt Grimes	Missy Kiefer	Jackson Kollasch

Children's Choir / Bell Choir

Joey Bevivino	Hayden Dallam	Catie Kiefer	Will Kiefer
Christian Maletz	Hannah McCracken	Sean McCracken	Liam Neff
Sam Neff	Kasear Ray	Kingston Roache	Avery Shindler
Delaney Shindler			

*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.

The altar flowers are presented in honor of Mt. Zion UCC members and families! Merry Christmas from Lyn Schleeter and Barbara Krier

The bulletins are presented in honor of Denny Daugherty, Travis Pinci, and all the music ensembles. Thank you for your dedication and for sharing your gifts with our church family. With love, Pastor Danielle & Pastor Jeff.

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.

10:30 AM Acolyte: Ellery Wagaman

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Elaine Bevivino

10:30 AM Video Tech: John Schriver

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Carter Beyer

10:30 AM Welcome Team: David, Steph, Carter & Layla Beyer

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Clyde Snyder

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

¹ The Advent Candlelighting utilizes the poem "Christmas Comes" 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 This song is printed and performed with permission under CCLI License #3220582

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