

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

December 24, 2016

3:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve is a joyous time for all who open their hearts and minds to our loving Creator. Let us allow the true meaning of Christmas to stir up love within us. During the service today, we will be serving communion. Please know that all are invited to participate in Holy Communion.

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 red hymnal.

CAROL SING

CAROL NO. 108 (red hymnal, stanzas 1, 3, & 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CAROL NO. 118 (red hymnal, stanzas 1 & 2)

The First Nowell

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

PRELUDE

Mary Did You Know?

by Lowry & Greene

Sung by Jordan Bicher and Braden Bicher

OPENING RESPONSIVE PRAYER¹

L: Emmanuel: God, you are with us.

P: We have heard the promises of the prophets;

L: We have caught the notes of an angel's song;

P: We have seen a star in the heavens, and we have believed.

L: Today we have come to be with you because you have come to be with us.

P: We seek an innocent, helpless baby in a crude manger;

L: We seek a Messiah who will reign with justice;

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

P: And you, who are the weakest and the strongest, the most humble and the most mighty, have found us.

L: Now we may find ourselves.

ALL: Now we may love each other, now we may truly worship you, crying aloud with the heavenly host: "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and goodwill among all people." Amen.

*CAROL NO. 112 (red hymnal) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at the manger. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (red hymnal, stanzas 1 & 3) *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

ALL SING: Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: Hope looked down and saw despair.

ALL: "I will go there," said Hope.

L: Peace looked down and saw war.

ALL: "I will go there," said Peace.

L: Joy looked down and saw sadness.

ALL: "I will go there," said Joy.

L: Love looked down and saw hate.

ALL: "I will go there," said Love.

L: So the Lord of Hope, the Prince of Peace, the King of Joy, the Heart of Love came down and crept in beside us.

ALL: "I am here," said Emmanuel, God with us.

L: The Light of the World has come. A light now shines in the darkness. Thanks be to God.

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

READING OF LUKE 2:1-20
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

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

OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY (duet with Bronson Gordon & Travis Pinci)

Sing Noel, Noel

Traditional

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional

March of the Three Kings

Traditional

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 105 (red hymnal, stanzas 1 & 3)

Angels We Have Heard on High

ALL SING: Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing. Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

L: This is a magical night. God-with-us has come to touch our world, our lives. God-with-us has come to bring us out of darkness into a glorious light. God-with-us invites us now to come to the table, believing in the promises of God fulfilled tonight. Here we hear angels, and see shepherds, and are transformed by a baby. Here love is offered, and love is found, in sharing of the bread and cup. Here we find our journey's end and its beginning. This table is open to anyone who wishes to know Christ better. May the God of holy nights be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: People of God, this is the night of transformation.

P: This is the night when God bends low.

L: Children of Bethlehem, lift your voices in joy to God.

P: Our voices join with all who celebrate the Birth this night.

L: God of wonder, we come to this table to be surrounded by the mystery of heaven's radiance. Lift us from the ordinary, that we may be touched by things extraordinary this night. We praise you for coming to humankind, for being a child for all children, and for living as Son of Man for all humankind.

P: "For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

L: Into a silent and fearful world, you sent your son Jesus to Bethlehem, born that we might draw nearer to you. So with shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph, with those who sing carols and those whose pain only brings silence, we lift our songs to you:

P: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of the manger. Creation hears the angel songs and rejoices. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who is born this night. Hosanna in the highest!

REMEMBERING THE STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE
SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(The outer ring of cups contain grape juice, the inner rings contain wine.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: We thank you, O God, for your presence at this table. Grant that the angel's song may be continually on our lips, that Christ's light may radiate in our lives, and that we may bear the good news of your love in a dark and waiting world. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

CAROL (see insert) *Silent Night, Holy Night*

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

by Handel

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Merry Christmas to All!

Welcome Team & Communion Servers: Tim Snyder, Kathy Ensminger, John Kollasch, & Barb Stebbins

One poinsettia is placed upon the altar in honor of Michael Maletz 50th birthday by Heather, Andrew, & Christian.

One poinsettia is placed upon the altar in honor of Zachary Shiffer's 9th birthday by Nana & Pop-pop (Sue & Jim Shiffer).

The bulletins are presented in honor of the Christ Child, the Light of the World.

Thank you to Jordan Bicher, Braden Bicher, Bronson Gordon & Debbie Butcher for enhancing today's worship with their musical gifts.

Thank you to Patsy & Lee Brown, of Brown's Tree Farm, for donating our Christmas tree and wreaths.

If you commune, please complete a communion card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.

During the candle lighting ceremony, please hold lighted candles vertical, and **tip the unlighted** candle to the lighted one.

Please pick up your 2017 offering envelopes if you haven't already done so. They are on the table in the west narthex. All contributions must be received at the church on or before December 25, 2016 in order to get credited to your 2016 giving statements.

December 25th Morning Worship Service at 10:30 AM. No Sunday School this day, and all are welcome to wear their pajamas to worship.

Mt. Zion is Streaming! This service will be posted on the Mt. Zion website at: <http://www.mtzionucc.org/services-online.html>, with both a live feed (during the actual service) and a version you can watch later. 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.

Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1868

8. 6. 8. 6. 7. 6. 8. 6.

ST. LOUIS
LEWIS H. REDNER, 1868*With joy and serenity*

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie;
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is given!
4. O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by:
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of] won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The Ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el! A - MEN.



Our Lord Jesus Christ

118

THE FIRST NOWELL

Traditional melody in W. SANDYS' *Christmas Carols*, 1833
Irregular, with Refrain Descant by EDWARD SHIPPEN BARNES

English Carol, 1833

DESCANT

In the style of a Carol

1. The first No - well the an - gels did say Was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, Shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star, Three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three Full rev - erent -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay, In fields as they lay keep - ing their
 east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great
 came from a coun - try a - far, To seek for a king was their in -
 hem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and
 ly up - on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres -
 to our heaven - ly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of

REFRAIN

REFRAIN

sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - well, No -
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 ence Their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 naught, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

well, No - well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - ell

Our Lord Jesus Christ

112

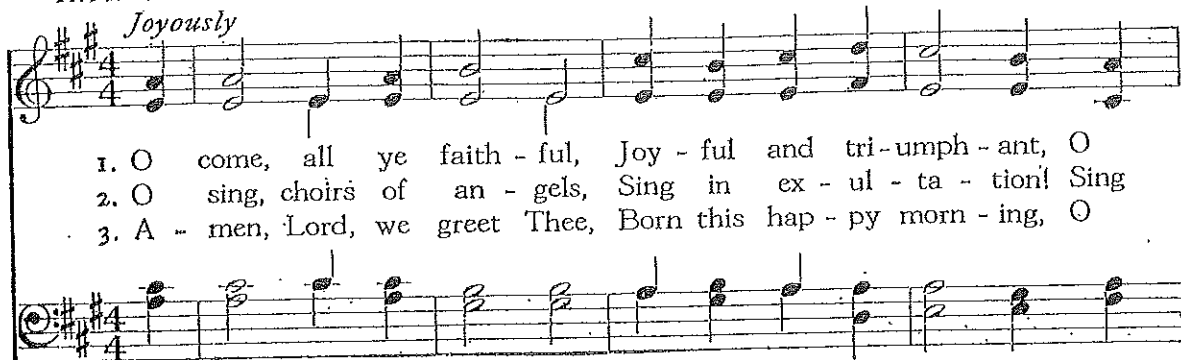
ADESTE FIDELES

Latin Hymn, 18th century
Tr. FREDERICK OAKELEY, 1841

Irregular

WADE'S *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Joyously



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - umph - ant, O
2. O sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion! Sing
3. A - men, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, O

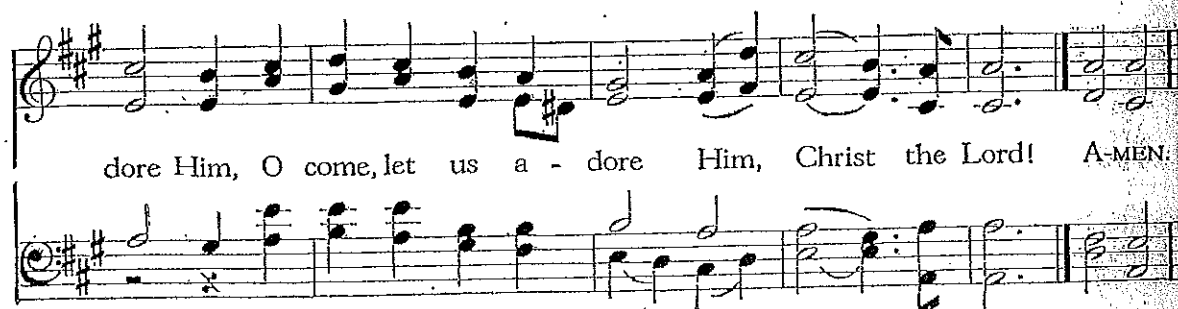


come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him,
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Now to our God be
Je - sus, for - ev - er be Thy Name a - dored; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN



Born the King of an - gels! O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
Glo - ry in the high - est!
Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord! A - MEN.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent, night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light,
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!