

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

Christmas Day

10:30 AM

Welcome to Mt. Zion and Merry Christmas! 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 and red hymnal.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CAROL SING

HYMN NO. 102 (red hymnal), verses 1 & 3 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

HYMN NO. 118 (red hymnal), verses 1 & 6 *The First Nowell*

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE¹

L: And in these days a decree goes out to all the world, for these are taxing times. We are called to again go to Bethlehem, no matter the state of our health or our world.

P: We come, obedient and faithful, for we have heard the message, we have dreamed the dream that God will come to dwell among us.

L: We come, expectant with joy, pregnant with anticipation, for God has done great things for us.

P: We come searching for a sign; bearing our gifts, we come.

L: We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts, startled and frightened by the magnitude of light, we huddle together toward Bethlehem.

P: We come, one by one, and yet, as one, dancing into the Promise.

L: We light this candle, a symbol of the Christ child, who is the Promised One of God. We light it in celebration and in honor of his birth.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

L: Too often our answer to darkness is not running toward Bethlehem but running away.

P: We ought to know by now that we can't see where we're going in the dark. Running away is rampant...separation is stylish: separation from mates, from friends, from self.

L: Run and tranquilize, don't talk about it, avoid. Run away and join the army of those who have already run away.

P: When are we going to learn that Christmas Peace comes only when we turn and face the darkness? Only then will we be able to see the Light of the World.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON³

ACT OF PRAISE (Hymn No. 165, verse 1, black hymnal)

ALL SING: Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CAROL NO. 109 (red hymnal)

Away in a Manger

SCRIPTURE READING

STORY & REFLECTION

We Were There

by Eve Bunting

CAROL NO. 148 (black hymnal) *What Child is This*

PRAYER & 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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING⁴

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (#165, black hymnal, v. 2 & 3)

Love Came Down at Christmas

ALL SING: Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but where is God's sacred sign? Love shall be our
token love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and neighbor, love for
plea and gift and sign.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CAROL NO. 120 (red hymnal)

Joy to the World

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*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 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 by Sue & Jim Shiffer in honor of our Mt. Zion Church Family. Merry Christmas!

Thank you to Denny & Olivia Daugherty for serving as our musicians in today's worship service.

¹ The Advent Candlelighting utilizes the poem "The Decree" by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, ©1993.

² The Prayer of Confession is based on the poem "Toward the Light" by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, ©1993.

³ The Assurance of Pardon is the poem "Godburst" by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, ©1993.

⁴ The Call to Offering is based on the poem "Gifts from God" by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, ©1993.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

CHARLES WESLEY, 1739

7.7.7.7. D. with Refrain

MENDELSSOHN
FELIX MENDELSSOHN, 1840
Arr. by WILLIAM H. CUMMINGS, 1856*Joyously*

1. Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the Ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come To the earth from heav - en's home;
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His' glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

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 - tinued 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 - el

His Nativity

Ascribed to MARTIN LUTHER

II. II. II. II.

MÜLLER
CARL MÜLLER*In the style of a carol*

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me for



Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with Thee there.



What Child Is This

148

William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man-ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!



William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century

Our Lord Jesus Christ

120

From Psalm xviii. ISAAC WATTS, 1719
With joy and dignity

C. M.

ANTIOCH
GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL, 1742

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

And heaven and na - ture sing,
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 And won - ders of His love,

And
Re -
And

And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 And won - ders, won - ders of His love. A-MEN.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of His love,