

# ***Mt. Zion United Church of Christ***

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Kardisco, Associate Pastor

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Secretary

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### ***Hope is On the Way***

*This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper. Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.*

*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 the red hymnal.*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE (sung by Olivia and Denny Daugherty)**

*Even So Come*

by Ingram, Tomlin, and Cates

CCLI Song #7036288. CCLI License # 3220582

### **SOLES4SOLES VIDEO**

*The Power of a Pair of Shoes*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>2</sup>**

One: We gather this morning as a people waiting for the Lord.

**ALL: The one who died, rose, and will come again.**

One: Yes, this is the truth, and the great mystery of our faith!

**ALL: Yes! Lord Jesus, come into our hearts again this Advent Season!**

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

## OPENING HYMN AND CANDLE LIGHTING<sup>2</sup>

HYMN NO. 116 (black hymnal, vs. 1 & 2)

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

CANDLE LIGHTING<sup>2</sup>

(8:00 AM) *Mike and Kathy Ferree*

(10:30 AM) *Suzanne Skennonto and Bill Murphy*

Leader: It was Jesus Christ himself that told us to be ready at any time.

Leader: So, today we remember that call. The call to look for God in unexpected places, at unexpected times.

Leader: And even though we wait, we can expect our Savior to show.

Leader: This morning, we light the Candle of Hope.

**ALL: Let this fire remind us that while we wait for the Lord, truly the Lord is already here. Hope is here. Love is here. Family is here.**

HYMN NO. 116 (black hymnal, vs. 6 & 7)

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## \*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>3</sup>

**ALL: Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives – for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction, toward you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 403 (FWS, v. 1 & refrain) *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

**ALL SING: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE  
MESSAGE**

*Matthew 24: 36-44*

**HYMN NO. 122 (black hymnal)**

*Come O Long Expected Jesus*

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

## 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.

### WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

*Even So Lord, Quickly Come*

by Wagner

### OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

by Pritchard

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 72 (red hymnal, v. 1)

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**ALL SING:** Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices. Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms, hath blest us on our way, with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Leader: The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom. Angelic messengers delivered news: a priest lost his speech; a young woman found her voice. In this season of Advent, the scriptures revive old stories and bring new understandings. In the face of critics and skeptics, our faith cries out, resilient, like a baby from a manger bed. From that Bethlehem beginning, Jesus, baptized in the Jordan, spent his life serving others that all might know the compassionate attention of a loving God. Today, Jesus serves us yet again, as we gather at this Table that he prepares for us. This table is open to all who are seeking hope.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Dear Jesus of Advent, You remain a sacred mystery to us. You have brought Good News for all people and we will not be afraid, for you are here. We are hungry for your love which surpasses all our understanding; we are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry. In this meal nourish our souls, feed our minds, quench our deepest longings and forgive our transgressions, that we may glorify you every day of our lives. Amen.

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

REMEMBERING THE STORY

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**ALL:** Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, A light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within us. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Thank you for refilling us, and for reviving your light within us. You are the source of our strength, and you will never fail us. Thank you God, Thank you Christ, Thank you Spirit. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 102** (black hymnal)

*O How Shall I Receive You*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION NO. 128** (black hymnal, v. 2)

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

**ALL SING:** Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain; heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign; In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.

**\*POSTLUDE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

arr. Berry

<sup>1</sup>*Even So Come.* CCLI Song #7036288. CCLI License # 3220582. Tomlin, Ingram, and Cates.

<sup>2</sup>The Call to Worship and the Candlelighting Liturgy were written by Jarrod Johnston, and shared on the Ministry Matters website at <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4276/advent-series-hope-is-on-the-way>.

<sup>3</sup>The Prayer of Confession was written by Moira Laidlaw, and shared at the re:Worship website at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/confession-assurance-advent-1-b.html>.

<sup>4</sup>The Communion Liturgy was written by Rev. Penny L. Lowes and shared at the United Church of Christ website at <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-b/ace/our-faith-cries-out.html>.

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

# NOTES

\*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!

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Allison Marie's 4th birthday from Nanna and Pop-Pop (Jim and Sue Shiffer).

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of all the volunteers who helped to decorate the church for Advent by the congregation.

The bulletins are presented as a thank-you to Bill Murphy for his help in hanging the "Thankful" garland throughout the Sanctuary from the November worship team.

Thank you to the December Worship Team for planning today's service. The team members are Suzanne Skennonto, Becky Hester, Carol Hartman, Natalie Behrends and Pastor Jeff.

Thank you to the Worship Choir for participating in the 10:30 AM service today and to Denny and Olivia Daugherty for sharing their music during the Prelude.

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.

8 AM Worship Tech: Mary Jane Snyder

8 AM Welcome Team & Communion Servers: Tim Snyder, Drew & Danika Dallam, Dave Strine

8 AM Sound Tech: John Kollasch

8 AM Video Tech: Jack Herlocker

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Tori Everhart

10:30 AM Welcome Team & Communion Servers: George DeMers, Steph Beyer, and Jim Beyer; coordinated by Dave Strine

10:30 AM Sound Tech: John Schriver

10:30 AM Video Tech: Elaine Bevivino

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

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

ADVENT

116

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710  
Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.  
St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and  
3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who  
4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your  
5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly  
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of  
came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a  
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your  
o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.  
sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.  
peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

In the medieval Western church, seven "Great O" antiphons, the basis for this hymn were sung consecutively on the

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain  
Melody from a 15th century French "Dance-song"

ADVENT

*Refrain*



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;  
Love stir with-in the womb of night,  
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.  
*(Refrain)*

7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind  
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;  
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;  
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.  
*(Refrain)*



3 Mon-tes y va-lles  
 ha-brá que pre-pa-rar;  
 nue-vos ca-mi-nos  
 te-ne-mos que tra-zar.  
 Dios es-tá ya muy cer-ca,  
 ve-nid-lo a en-con-trar,  
 y to-das las puer-tas  
 a-brid de par en par.

4 En un pe-se-bre  
 Je-sús a-pa-re-ció,  
 pe-ro en el mun-do  
 es-tá pre-sen-te hoy.  
 Vi-ve en-tre la gen-te,  
 con e-llas es-tá;  
 y vuel-ve de nue-vo  
 a dar-nos li-ber-tad.

3 Moun-tains and val-leys will  
 have to be made plain;  
 o-pen new high-ways,  
 new high-ways for our God,  
 Who is now com-ing closer,  
 so come all and see,  
 and o-pen the door-ways  
 as wide as wide can be.

4 In low-ly sta-ble  
 the Prom-ised One ap-peared,  
 yet feel that pres-ence  
 through-out the earth to-day,  
 For Christ lives in all Chris-tians  
 and is with us now;  
 a-gain, on ar-riv-ing  
 Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

## Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;  
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!  
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.  
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long-ing heart.  
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.  
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

## O How Shall I Receive You

102

*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.