

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

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Preparing for Hope

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.

In lieu of the prelude this morning, we will have a congregational hymn sing. Please raise your hand to be selected. We will select three hymns, and we will sing two verses of each hymn.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLES4SOLES VIDEO

What We Do

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Today we turn to God.

ALL: Lord, have mercy on us!

Leader: The Kingdom of Heaven is near.

ALL: Lord, help us to spread the good news!

OPENING HYMN AND CANDLE LIGHTING¹

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

CANDLE LIGHTING²

(8:00 AM) *Natalie Behrends & Tom Bodner*

(10:30 AM) *Mike & Karen Gibbs*

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Leader: John the Baptist called on God's people to repent, for the Messiah was near.

Leader: The people had prayed for it, yet they didn't see the one they had been waiting for was truly among them.

Leader: That prophecy was being fulfilled in their midst.

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

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 CONFESSION²**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, the source of power and life. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives from being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 403 (NCH, 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**

(10:30 AM) **SERVICE OF BAPTISM**

*Daniel, Hannah, & Sean McCracken
Parents: Lori & Scott McCracken*

(10:30 AM) **HYMN NO. 328** (black hymnal, vs. 1 & 2) *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**SCRIPTURE
MESSAGE**

Matthew 3: 1-12

HYMN NO. 91 (red hymnal)

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

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.

(8:00 AM) **JUBILATION ANTHEM** *Come Redeemer, Come to Us* by Cherubini

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

My Gift, My Offering

by DeFord

*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

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 93** (red hymnal)

Arise, the Kingdom Is At Hand

***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**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

by Balcombe

*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 Danika, Holt, and Hayden's December birthdays with love from Drew/Dad.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of all those participating in the cantata next week from the congregation.

The bulletins are presented in honor of Bonnie Snyder in hopes of a swift recovery by Don and Diane Strine.

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 Jubilation for participating in the 8:00 AM service today.

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: Jim Shiffer

8 AM Welcome Team: Deb & Terry Barnes; Becky & Jerry Hester

8 AM Sound Tech: Ivy Leach

8 AM Video Tech: Jack Herlocker

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Alan Neff

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Bill Murphy; Denee, Ryan, & Jordyn Myers

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Tom Mulligan

10:30 AM Video Tech: George DeMers

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Hunter King

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

¹The 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>.

²The Prayer of Confession was written by Jane Stranz for her blog, "Of Life, Laughter and Liturgy". It was shared on the re:Worship website at <https://re-worship.blogspot.ca/2013/11/confession-advent-2a.html>

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.