

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

December 24, 2017

7:00 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.

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 red and black hymnals.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

PRELUDE (played by Delaney Shindler and Travis Pinci)

O Come Little Children by Brueckner
O Come All Ye Faithful by Wade

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: On this holiest of nights,

P: we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

L: On this most silent night,

P: we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

L: On this night of carols and candlelight,

P: we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

HYMN NO. 131 (black hymnal)

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

¹Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Gyenes Family

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.

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Traditional

TIME WITH CHILDREN

The Christmas Story

HYMN NO. 112 (red hymnal, vs. 1 & 2)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ALL SING: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the king of angels, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

O sing choirs of angels sing in exultation! Sing all ye citizens of heaven above! Now to our God be Glory in the highest! O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

INTRODUCTION

Layla Beyer, Rachel Mulligan, Genevieve Rhinehart & Kasear Ray

HYMN NO. 108 (red hymnal, verses 1 & 3)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ALL SING: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven; no ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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THE JOURNEY OF MARY & JOSEPH

Layla Beyer & Rachel Mulligan

HYMN NO. 109 (red hymnal, verses 1 & 2)

Away in a Manger

ALL SING: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

THE STAR APPEARS & JESUS IS BORN

Layla Beyer, Rachel Mulligan, & Charlie Devine

HYMN NO. 2095 (FWS hymnal, verses 1 & 5)

Star Child

ALL SING: 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!

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!

THE ANGELS

Layla Beyer, Rachel Mulligan, Sam Neff, & Ella Mekulsia

HYMN NO. 102 (red hymnal, verses 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 Sun 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."

THE SHEPHERDS

Layla Beyer, Rachel Mulligan, Zachary Shiffer, & Dayshon Bowers

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

HYMN NO. 118 (red hymnal, verses 1 & 2)

The First Nowell

ALL SING: The first Nowell the angels did say Was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they lay, In fields as they lay keeping their sheep, On
a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star, Shining in the east beyond them far, And to
the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Layla Beyer & Rachel Mulligan

HYMN NO. 120 (red hymnal, verses 1 & 2)

Joy to the World

ALL SING: Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room. And heaven and nature sing, And
heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ; While
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat
the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

Traditional

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (red hymnal # 105, vs. 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

SOLO (by Cora Beyer)

O Holy Night

by Adam

CHRISTMAS READING

John 1:1-5

THE CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

CAROL (see p. 5)

Silent Night, Holy Night

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

by Handel

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Merry Christmas to All!

Welcome Team: The Strine Family

Worship Tech: Dave Strine

One poinsettia is placed upon the altar in honor of Zachary Shiffer's 10th birthday from Nanna and Pop-pop, Sue and Jim Shiffer.

One poinsettia is placed upon the altar in honor of Steve and Christal's 15th wedding anniversary and in honor of our whole family being together for Christmas by Mike and Kathy Ferree.

The bulletins are sponsored in honor of our children and grandchildren by Don and Diane Strine.

Thank you to Delaney Shindler, Cora Beyer, and the Children's Bell Choir for enhancing this evening's worship with their musical gifts.

Thank you to all the children who participated in this evening's worship.

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

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

Please pick up your 2018 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 31st, 2017 in order to get credited to your 2017 giving statements.

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.

¹Rev. Thom Shuman, www.liturgylink.net

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.