

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: mtzionuccyorkpa@comcast.net
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

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 after Christmas 8:00 & 10:30 AM

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 hymnals.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* by Mendelsshon

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

People: God is there.

Leader: This very morning,

People: God is here.

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

People: God is there.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 154** (black hymnal)

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Lord God of Christmas, we stand on the threshold of another year. You have given us many gifts during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts or our lives as creatively and constructively as we might have. Creative God, you make all things new and you hold out a new day and a new year for us. Yet how often we squander the opportunities, letting our doubts overwhelm us, letting our sins bind us, letting our fears stop us. You offer us new dreams, and we succumb to old weaknesses; you offer us hope and we choose the comfortable. Loving God, give us the care to shape the moments of this next year into tender, gentle expressions of concern. May the year be fulfilled with achievements: wrongs corrected, friendships deepened, the disheartened encouraged. As you became love to us, help us to be loving to others. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 162 (black hymnal, v. 1)

In a Lowly Manger Born

ALL SING: In a lowly manger born, humble life begun in scorn. In a workshop Jesus grew, worker's struggles knew. Knew the suffering of the weak, knew the longing of the meek, knew the poor and suffering ones; this is God, the Human One!

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

**SCRIPTURE
MESSAGE**

Luke 2: 22-40

HYMN NO. 165 (black hymnal)

Love Came Down at Christmas

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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SPECIAL MUSIC (played by the “Holy Dingalings”)

Let There Be Peace on Earth by Miller
Silent Night Traditional

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* by Willis

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 153 (black hymnal, v. 1)

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

ALL SING: Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth might not be a plan or army proud in purpose, proved in worth? Who would think despite derision, that a child should lead the way? God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 120 (red hymnal)

Joy to the World

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubileo

by Seuse

*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 to the glory of God in thankfulness for a wonderful year by Drew, Danika, Holt, and Hayden Dallam.

One vase of altar flowers is presented by the congregation in honor of all those who participated in and helped to prepare for the Christmas Eve services at Mt. Zion. Thank you!

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: Deb & Jack Herlocker; Drew & Danika Dallam

8 AM Sound Tech: Denny Daugherty

8 AM Video Tech: Ken Dunbar

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Tori Everhart

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Jeff & Nancy Sleeper; Melissa & Delaney Shindler

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ron Miles

10:30 AM Video Tech: George DeMers

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Ryan Neal

10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

WOW Kids: Coordinated by Kathy Sweeney

¹The Call to Worship was written by Rev. Dr. Robert George, Karen George, and Judy Colby-George; posted on the "Worship Ways Website" of the United Church of Christ. Copyright 2017 Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

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