

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, 2018

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 Daniel McCracken & Scott McCracken)

We Three Kings

Traditional

Jingle Bells

Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

People: This is the night of the Holy Birth!

Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

People: Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

People: Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! Amen!

HYMN NO. 112 (red hymnal)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

¹*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

The Christmas Story

HYMN NO. 138 (black hymnal, v. 1)

Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good

ALL SING: Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts around him stood. Jesus our brother, strong and good.

INTRODUCTION

Joseph Bevivino & Layla Beyer

HYMN NO. 108 (red hymnal, vs. 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.

A DONKEY'S JOURNEY

Zachary Shiffer, Joseph Bevivino & Layla Beyer

HYMN NO. 109 (red hymnal, vs. 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.

A CROWDED STABLE: THE BABY IS BORN

Sam Neff, Dayshon Bowers, Charlie Devine, Katelyn Shiffer, Joseph Bevivino & Layla Beyer

HYMN NO. 2095 (FWS, vs. 1 & 5, see p. 4)

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!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

FEAR NOT: THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEEP

*Eloise Rhinehart, Sarah Crowell, Allison Shiffer, Liam Neff,
Genevieve Rhinehart, Zander Ray, Joey Bevivino, & Layla Beyer*

HYMN NO. 118 (red hymnal, vs. 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

Joey Bevivino & Layla Beyer

HYMN NO. 138 (black hymnal, v. 6)

Jesus Our Brother, Strong and Good

ALL SING: Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the stable dark were
glad to tell of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY (played by Delaney Shindler & Travis Pinci)

Away in a Manger

Traditional

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Traditional

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 120 (red hymnal, vs. 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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SOLO (by Cora Beyer)

O Holy Night

by Adam

CHRISTMAS READING

Luke 2: 1-20

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

THE CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

CAROL (see p. 5)

Silent Night, Holy Night

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE (played by Katrina & Juliana Rhinehart)

Greensleeves (What Child Is This)

Traditional

¹The call to worship was written by Nancy C. Townley, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, and it was shared on the “Ministry Matters” website at

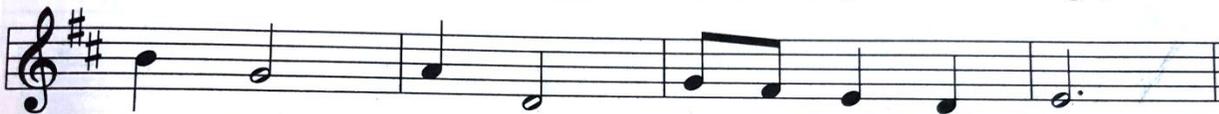
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2127/classic-worship-connection-christmas-eve-2017-option-1>. Accessed with permission on Dec 4, 2018.

Star-Child

2095

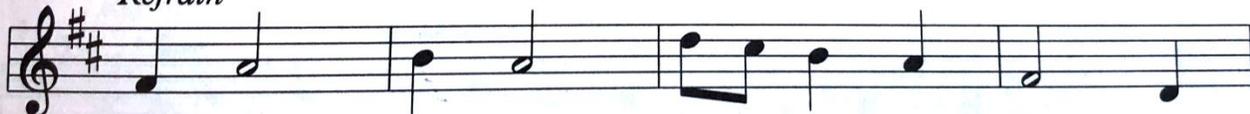


1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
3. Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pend - ous sign,



love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears,
wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store,
down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

Refrain



This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when



Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

*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 11th birthday from Nanna and Pop-pop, Sue and Jim Shiffer.

One poinsettia is placed upon the altar in honor Ben & Emily Miller's graduation from Pennsylvania State University on December 15, 2018 by Jill & Stan Miller.

The bulletins are presented in honor of all the children of Mt. Zion.

Thank you to Delaney Shindler, Cora Beyer, Daniel McCracken, Scott McCracken, Katrina Rhinehart, Juliana Rhinehart, 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 2019 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, 2018 in order to get credited to your 2018 giving statements.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.