

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Blessed Are They Who Believe

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 welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices 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!

We pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the black hymnal.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

We Adore

by Hart & Krippayne

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We hear the love Micah promises the new baby shall bring to the world.

People: Let us be like the baby, spreading love to all.

Leader: We hear the love between Mary and Elizabeth.

People: Let us recognize and accept the love that is given to us.

Leader: In a world sometimes filled with darkness,

People: let us be the light that is God's love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 327 (black hymnal)**

Jesus Loves Me

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING²

Leader: A candle now shines among flowers of red...a reminder that when we live each day with love in our heart,

People: one light conquers darkness

Leader: When we live each day with love in our heart

People: one love smothers hate

Leader: When we live each day with love in our heart

People: one breath calms busyness

Leader: When we live each day with love in our heart

People: one baby brings eternal life.

Leader: Jesus is our Prince of Peace.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

ALL: We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, O God of Advent. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us your children. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON³

Leader: Even now – yes, even in this very moment God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

People: May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 2030 (FWS, see p. 4)

The First Song of Isaiah⁴

ALL SING: Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

(10:30 AM) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5: 2-5 & Luke 1: 39-45

MESSAGE

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

JOYS & 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**

An Advent Credo

by Martin

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Your Light Will Come Jerusalem

by Hurd

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 116 (black hymnal, v. 6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ALL SING: O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 165** (black hymnal)

Love Came Down at Christmas

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Go Now in Peace

by Besig/Price

ALL SING: Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

***POSTLUDE**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

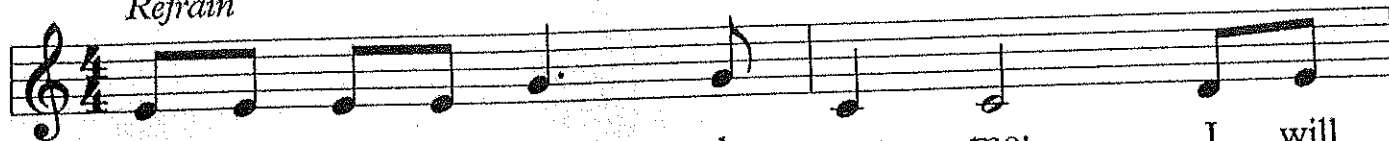
by Helmore

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

2030

The First Song of Isaiah

Refrain



Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will



trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de - fense, and



he will be my Sav - ior.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

NOTES

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in memory of Harry, Doris & Jeffery King by Barry, Sandy, & Hunter King.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of our mother and grandmother, Dorothy Leber, on her 99th birthday, by Jane & Jodi Graham.

The bulletins are presented in memory of Perino Bevivino (Perry's father) by Perry, Elaine, & Joey Bevivino.

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

Thank you to the Advent Worship Team for planning today's service. The team members are Jen Cooper, Robin Schriver, Dave Firestone, Wendy Kindig, and Pastor Jeff.

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: Connie Wolfe
8 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Dave Firestone
8 AM Sound Tech: Jack Herlocker
8 AM Video Tech: Denny Daugherty
8 AM Liturgist: Deb Herlocker
8 AM Hall Monitor: Pam Minnich
10:30 AM Worship Tech: Lana Fritz
10:30 AM Welcome Team: Coordinated by Dave Firestone
10:30 AM Sound Tech: John Schriver
10:30 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty
10:30 AM Camera Tech: Ryan Neal
10:30 AM Hall Monitor: George DeMers
10:30 AM Nursery: Coordinated by Pastor Jeff
WOW Kids: David & Brigitte Bradnick

¹The Call to worship was written by Wendy Kindig, a member of the Advent worship planning team

²The Advent candle lighting was written by Jen Cooper, a member of the Advent worship planning team.

³The prayer of confession and assurance of pardon were written by Thom Shuman, and originally posted on *Lectionary Liturgies* at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>. They were accessed on December 12th, 2018 at the *Re:Worship* website at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/12/confession-luke-1-46-55.html>. Used with permission for congregational worship.

⁴*The First Song of Isaiah*. By Jack Noble White. © 1976 CPP/Belwin Music/Alfred. Reproduced with permission under One License A-725030.

⁵*Go Now in Peace*. By Besig and Price. Reproduced with permission under One License A-725030.

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*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860
St. 2-3, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,
3 Je - sus loves me! Still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
Tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
Want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

1 Deer He-soos zis guh see-reh,
eem soorp keer-kus ice guh-seh,
Inch koo-tov ink un-toon-etz
po-ker dug-hak, yev orh-netz.

Vo, guh see-reh ziss!
Vo, guh see-reh ziss!
Vo, guh see-reh ziss!
Soorp Kirk-uh ice guh-seh.

(Armenian transliteration Vartan Hartunian)

1 Lo'u A-lii ua faa-fe-tai
I lou sa-ga a-lo-fa-mai,
Ua i-lo-a-ti-no ai
I lou tau-si pe-a mai.

O lou a-lo-fa!
O lou a-lo-fa!
O lou a-lo-fa!
E si-li la-va lea.

(Samoan transl. anon.)

Anna B. Warner collaborated with her sister, Susan, on several novels. In one, Say and Seal, this hymn was sung to comfort a sick child. Two new stanzas have been provided by Canadian David R. McGuire, an Anglican priest.

Tune: JESUS LOVES ME 7.7.7.7. with refrain
William B. Bradbury, 1862

Love Came Down at Christmas

*Matt. 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-18**Christina G. Rossetti, 1885; alt.*

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di-vine;
 2 Wor-ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di-vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 Wor-ship we our Je - sus, but where is God's sa - cred sign?
 Love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti, author of the more familiar carol "In the Bleak Midwinter," lived a very quiet life in England. This text has been described by the noted editor Percy Dearmer as a "gem, where so much is said in so little space."

Tune: WHITNEY 6.7.6.7.
 Maurice C. Whitney, 1962