

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

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

A Pending Invitation ~ The Candle of Invitation Sacrament of Holy Communion

This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper. Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come, Emmanuel

arr. Schram

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

L: The invitation, did you get it?

P: Yes! God invites us to find sanctuary in the Light of His Love and in the promise of everlasting life.

L: In the light of God's love, take your first steps! Even though the journey may be rugged, God's light will guide you, giving you courage to keep climbing.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

P: With our minds focused and our hearts open, we will look toward the light of God.

ALL SING (to the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”): No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread in the light of the Lord. No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread at the invitation of the Lord.

Piano

No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
feet will tread in the li - ght of the Lord.
No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
feet will tread at the in - vi - ta - tion of the Lord.

(8 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** (sung by Travis Pinci) *The King Shall Come* by Thomson

(10:30 AM) **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM** *Prepare Your Heart* by Hank, Bebe

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

(10:30 AM) **HYMN NO. 120** (black hymnal) *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Your Light Will Come Jerusalem* by Herd

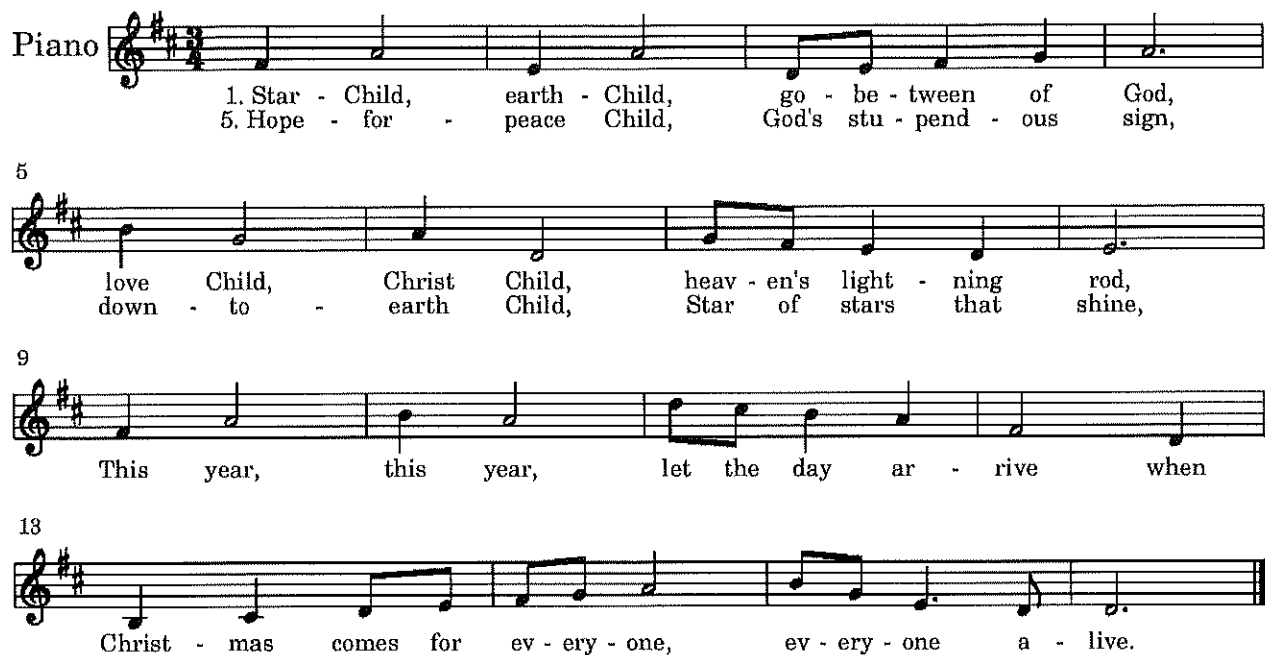
OFFERTORY RESPONSE (vs. 1 & 5, see next page for music) *Star Child*

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.

Piano



1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pend - ous sign,
love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod,
down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when
Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(8 AM) **HYMN NO. 120** (black hymnal)

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: Loving God, we confess that throughout our life's journey, we allow mountains to become a barrier on our walk with God, rather than an invitation to draw closer to God. We forget to be generous with our gifts. We hold grudges instead of offering forgiveness. Allowing distractions to distance ourselves, we disconnect. We lose sight of God's glorious light which offers unconditional love and grace. Loving God, grant your forgiveness, renewing us so that we may focus our minds and open our hearts to walk in your glorious light.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE

ALL SING: No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread in the light of the Lord. No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread at the invitation of the Lord.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Piano

No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
 5 feet will tread in the li - ght of the Lord.
 8 No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
 12 feet will tread at the in - vi - ta - tion of the Lord.

**JOYS & CONCERNS
 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
 HYMN (see p. 7)**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SERMON

ALL SING: No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread in the light of the Lord. No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread at the invitation of the Lord.

Piano

No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
 5 feet will tread in the li - ght of the Lord.
 8 No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
 12 feet will tread at the in - vi - ta - tion of the Lord.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION & ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

INVITATION AND REMEMBERING THE STORY

L: In this season of Advent, we are embarking on a journey. On this journey, we will travel through mountains and deserts and encounter trees and roots and flowers. We will reflect on our lives and the mountaintops we have climbed and the valleys we have endured. We will remember what we have learned in those places. Through it all, we acknowledge,

P: No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread in the light of the Lord.

L: We begin this journey with an invitation. An invitation to join at the table of God's healing love. We begin at the table because we know we will need strength for the journey and we will get it from the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

P: We begin at the table, accepting Christ's hospitality and blessing.

L: We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends in an upper room.

P: He blessed the bread and passed it to the disciples and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Eat this and remember me."

L: After supper, he took the cup.

P: He blessed the cup and passed it around to them and said, "This is my blood, the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Drink this and remember me."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION & 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE JUICE

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS (all cups contain grape juice)


*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL SING: No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread in the light of the Lord. No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread at the invitation of the Lord.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Piano  No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our

5  feet will tread in the li - ght of the Lord.

8  No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our


12  feet will tread at the in - vi - ta - tion of the Lord.

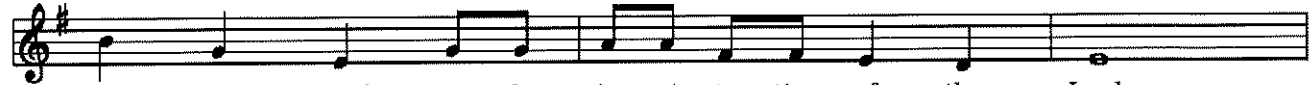
***BENEDICTION**

ALL SING: No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread in the light of the Lord. No matter where we are on our journey, our feet will tread at the invitation of the Lord.

Piano  No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our

5  feet will tread in the li - ght of the Lord.

8  No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our

12  feet will tread at the in - vi - ta - tion of the Lord.

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Bank

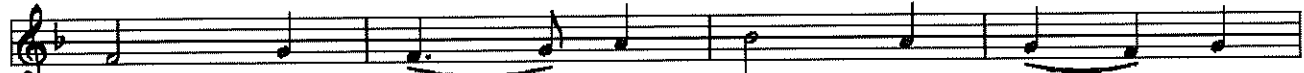
by Chandler

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Piano 
 1. Come, Thou long - expect - ed Je - sus,
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,


5 
 Born to a set child Thy and peo - ple free;
 Born a child and yet a King,

9 
 From our fears and sins re - lease us;
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er,

13 
 Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

17 
 Is - rael's strength and con - so la - tion,
 By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it

21 
 Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Rule in all our hearts a - lone!

25 
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion,
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it


 Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

If you receive Holy Communion today, please complete a communion card located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of our wedding anniversary by Jim Beyer.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Allison Marie's 6th birthday, love Nanna & Pop-Pop (Jim & Sue Shiffer).

Thank you to the Worship Choir for participating in the 10:30 AM service today.

Thank you to the Advent worship team for planning today's service. The worship team consists of Melody Stine, JJ Rhinehart, Danika Dallam, Jen Cooper, Dani Kardisco, & Pastor Danielle.

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 & Communion servers: Drew & Danika Dallam, Becky Hester, & Bob Ensminger

8 AM Sound Tech: Jack Herlocker

8 AM Video Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

8 AM Hall Monitor: Coordinated by Pam Minnich

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Tori Everhart

10:30 AM Welcome Team & Communion servers: Bob Katherman, Lana Fritz, Nancy Sleeper, Joe Vacante, & David Firestone

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Coordinated by Denny Daugherty

10:30 AM Video Tech: John Schriver

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Hall Monitor: Coordinated by Bob Katherman

10:30 AM Nursery: Tammy Gordon & Connie Wolfe

WOW Kids: Brooke Markel & Cassidy Schildt

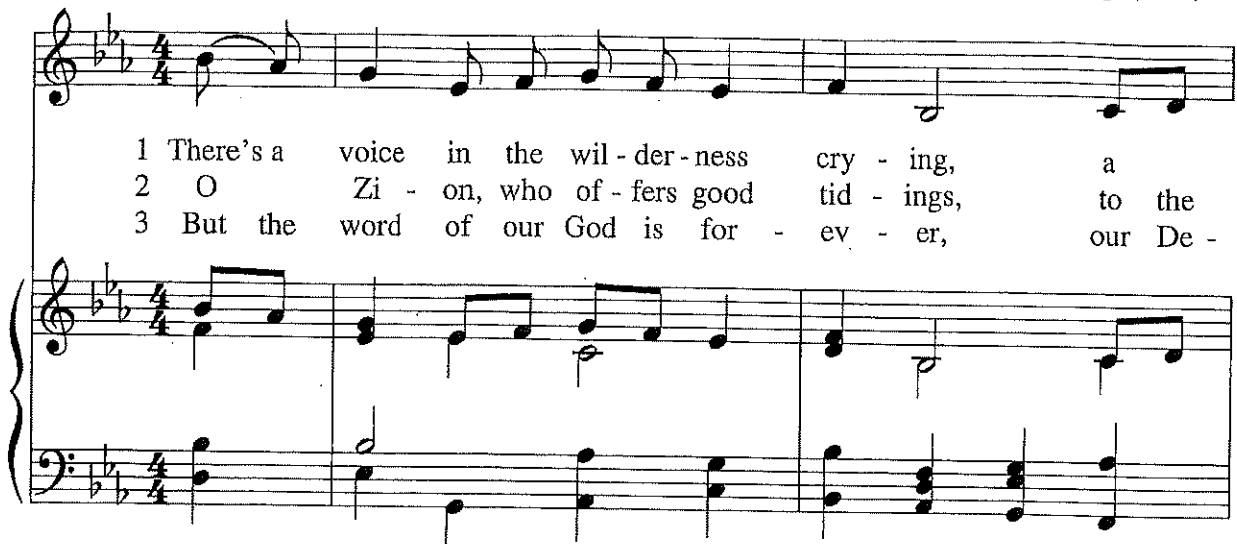
¹The Call to Worship and the prayer of confession were written by Jennifer Cooper.

²*Star Child*. Words & Music: Shirley Elena Murray. © 1994 Hope Publishing Company. Reproduced with permission under One License # A-725030.

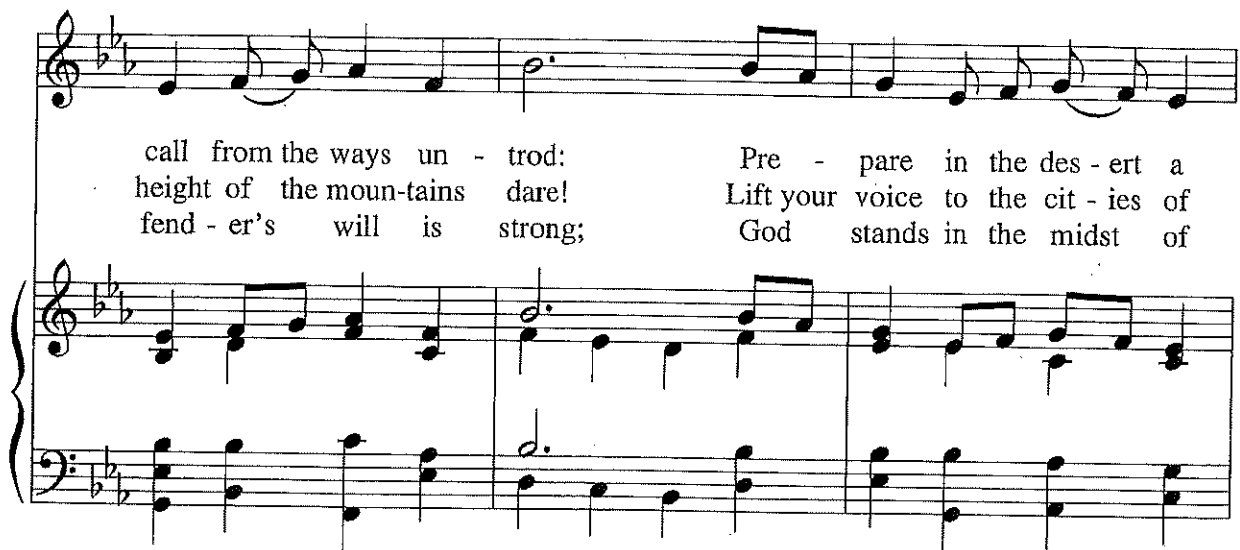
³*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*. Words by Charles Wesley, music by Hugh Prichard.

⁴The liturgy for the Sacrament of Communion and the Advent Candlelighting were written for Mt. Zion UCC by the Rev. Danielle Neff.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*Isa. 40:3-11; Ps. 103:15-17**J. Lewis Milligan, 1925; alt.*


1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Zi - on, who of - fers good tid - ings, to the
 3 But the word of our God is for - ev - er, our De -



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 height of the moun - tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit - ies of
 fend - er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of

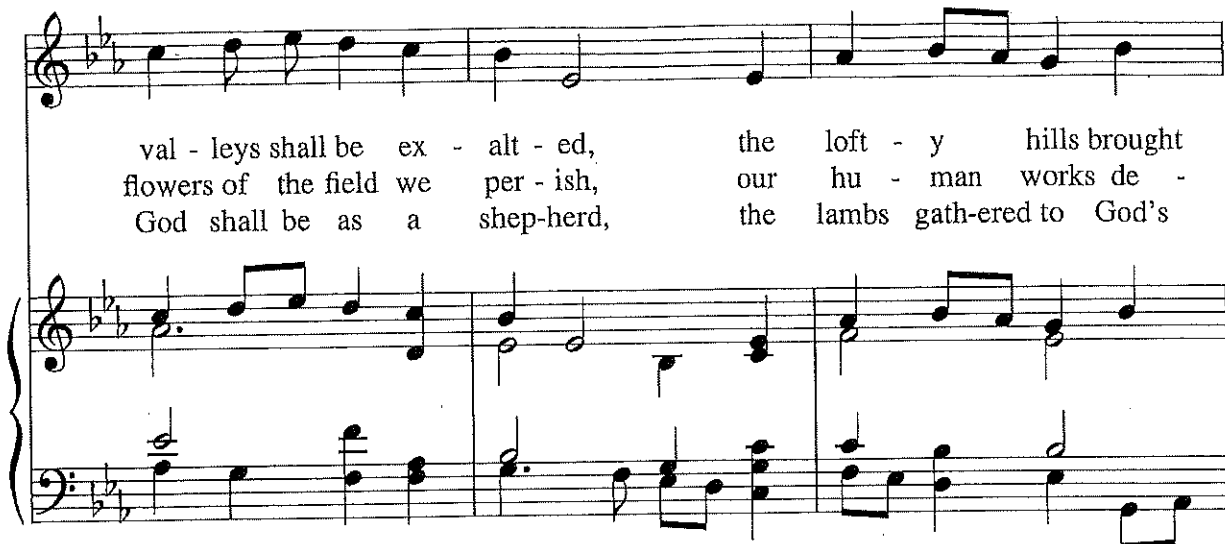


high - way, a high - way for our God! The *continued*
 Ju - dah: "Be - hold your God!" de - clare. Like the *next*
 na - tions, to ren - der right the wrong. Then *page . . .*

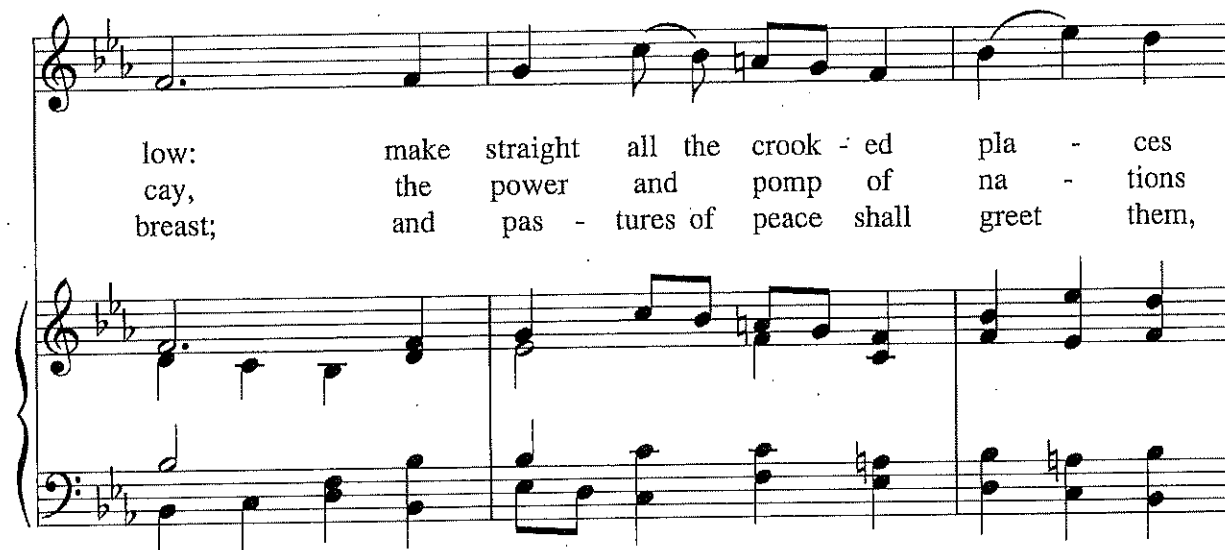
Before moving to Canada, J. Lewis Milligan was a successful British journalist and poet. This text was written in 1925 to celebrate the union of three churches into The United Church of Canada, a body he served as public relations director.

Tune: ASCENSION Irr.
 H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938

#120 THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CONTINUED



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought
flowers of the field we per - ish, our hu - man works de -
God shall be as a shep-herd, the lambs gath-ered to God's



low: make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
cay, the power and pomp of na - tions
breast; and pas - tures of peace shall greet them,



where Em - man - u - el may go!
shall pass like a dream a - way.
to give to the wea - ry rest.