

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

Telephone: 717-755-6117

E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org

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

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

A Desert in Bloom ~ The Candle of Embrace

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

Lo! How a Rose

arr. Curry

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: The Embrace, do you feel it?

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

L: In the light of God's love, look for the path God has set forth for you! Even though the journey may be long, with arms open wide, let God's light guide you, and you will be headed in the right direction.

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

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

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 in the embrace 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 in the em - brace of the Lord.

(8:00 AM) **JUBILATION ANTHEM**

Let Your Heart Make Him Room
by Lee, Dengler

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

(10:30 AM) **HYMN NO. 111** (black hymnal)

O Loving Founder of the Stars

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Midwinter with Winter’s Snow* arr. Tornquist

*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,

5
 love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod,
 down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

9
 This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when

13
 Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(8 AM) ***HYMN NO. 111** (black hymnal)

O Loving Founder of the Stars

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: Loving God, we confess that throughout our life's journey, we ignore God's guidance, turning away from His embrace to rely solely on our own sense of direction. Allowing distractions to distance ourselves, we disconnect from God. We lose sight of God's glorious light which offers unconditional love and grace. We forget to be generous with our gifts and hold grudges instead of offering forgiveness. 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 in the embrace 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.
 No mat - ter where we are on our jour - ney, our
 26 feet will tread in the em - brace of the Lord.

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.

HYMN NO. 121 (black hymnal)

All Earth is Waiting

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35: 1-10
James 5: 7-10

SERMON & THE CANDLE OF PROMISE

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 in the embrace of the Lord.

PRAYER


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 in the embrace of the Lord.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*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 in the embrace 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.



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

26



feet will tread in the em - brace of the Lord.

POSTLUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

by Moultrie

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of Danika's "special" birthday, with love, from Drew, Holt, & Hayden Dallam.

One vase of altar flowers is presented in honor of the Advent worship team and all their work in preparing the services for Advent by the congregation.

Thank you to Jubilation 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: Dave Strine

8 AM Welcome Team: Scott, Evan, Jen, & Kerington Cooper

8 AM Sound Tech: George DeMers

8 AM Video Tech: Denny Daugherty

8 AM Hall Monitor: Coordinated by Pam Minnich

10:30 AM Worship Tech: Barb Stebbins

10:30 AM Welcome Team: Les & Doris Loucks; Melissa, Delaney, & Avery Shindler

10:30 AM Sound Tech: Ron Miles

10:30 AM Video Tech: Elaine Bevivino

10:30 AM Camera Tech: Jim Firestone

10:30 AM Hall Monitor: Sarah Shaffer

10:30 AM Nursery: Katelyn & Corey McCarthy

WOW Kids: Erin & Jason Shiffer

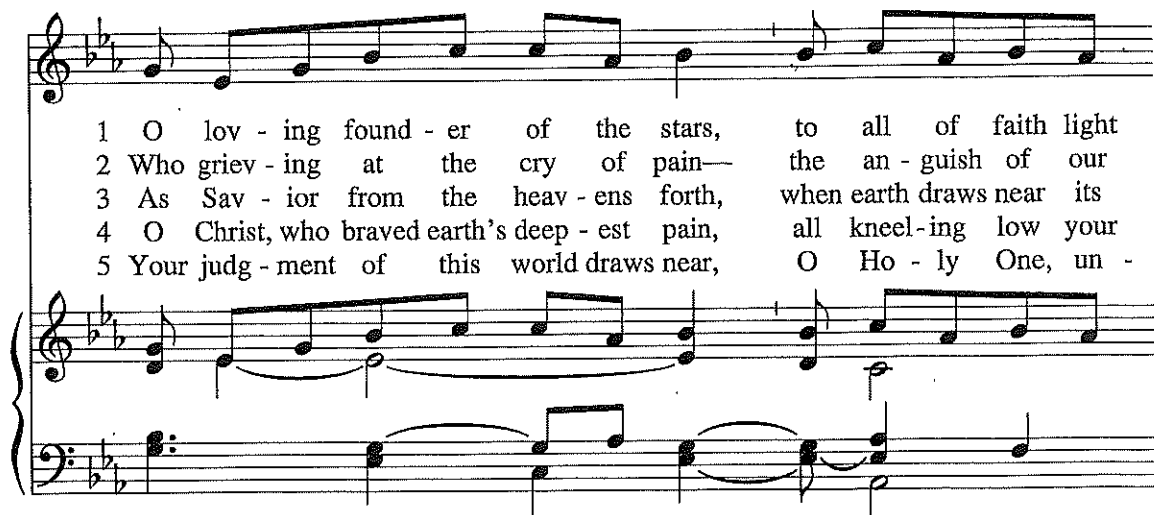
¹The Call to Worship and the prayer of confession were written by Jennifer Cooper.

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

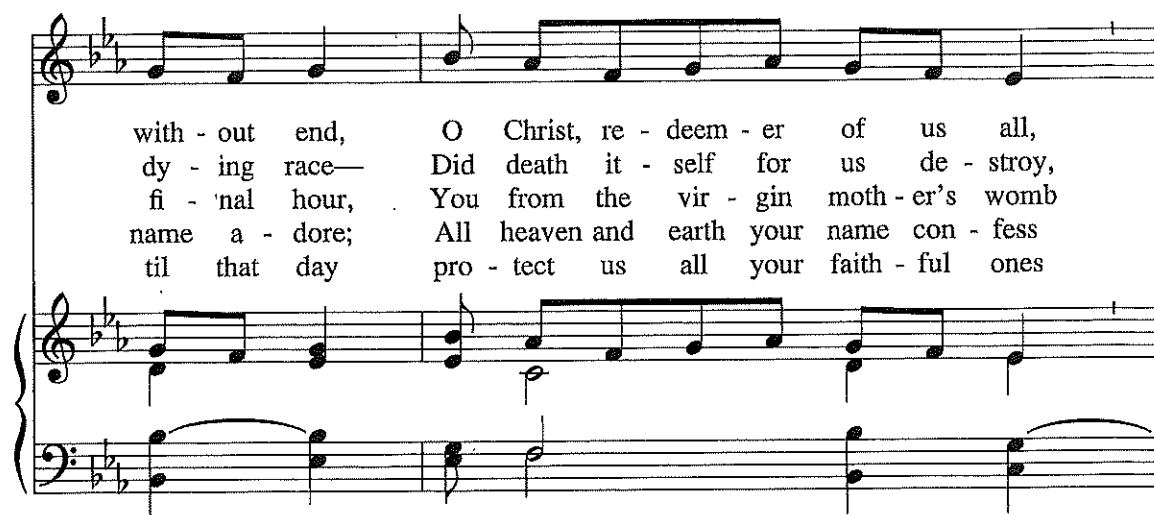
*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

O Loving Founder of the Stars

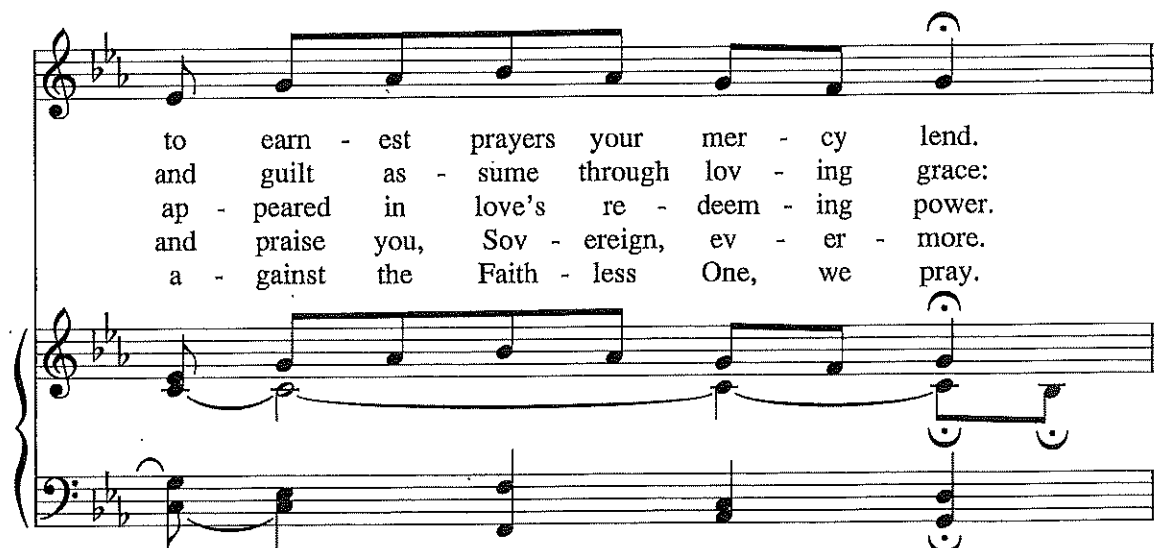
111

*Latin, anon., 9th century; transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993**Luke 2:1-7; John 1:1-5; Phil. 2:5-11*


1 O lov - ing found - er of the stars, to all of faith light
 2 Who griev - ing at the cry of pain— the an - guish of our
 3 As Sav - ior from the heav - ens forth, when earth draws near its
 4 O Christ, who braved earth's deep - est pain, all kneel - ing low your
 5 Your judg - ment of this world draws near, O Ho - ly One, un -



with - out end, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 dy - ing race— Did death it - self for us de - stroy,
 fi - nal hour, You from the vir - gin moth - er's womb
 name a - dore; All heaven and earth your name con - fess
 til that day pro - tect us all your faith - ful ones



to earn - est prayers your mer - cy lend.
 and guilt as - sume through lov - ing grace:
 ap - peared in love's re - deem - ing power.
 and praise you, Sov - ereign, ev - er - more.
 a - gainst the Faith - less One, we pray.

The original Latin hymn, dating from the early Middle Ages, was sung at Vespers (sunset) during Advent. The tune referred to in old service books as the "Ambrosian Advent Hymn" is thought to be one of the earliest church tunes.

Tune: CONDITOR ALME .L.M.
 ancient Sarum plainsong, mode IV

Toda la Tierra

(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6; Matt. 1:23

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.

Unison

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
 2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya
 1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
 2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

o - bra del Crea - dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad,
 vie - ne Em - ma - nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi - lla se - rá,
 sow - ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
 bear Em - man - u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be,

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4 dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
 con él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
 it cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
 through whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

Alberto Taulé, composer and author of this new Advent hymn, has served as a parish priest and music editor for the Roman Catholic Church in Spain. This hymn was his first to be published in the United States.

Tune: TAULE 11.11.12.12
 Alberto Taulé, 197.
 Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 198

3 Mon-tes y va-lles
ha-brá que pre-pa-rar;
nue-vos ca-mi-nos
te-ne-mos que tra-zar.
Dios es-tá ya muy cer-ca,
ve-nid-lo a en-con-trar,
y to-das las puer-tas
a-brid de par en par.

4 En un pe-se-bre
Je-sús a-pa-re-ció,
pe-ro en el mun-do
es-tá pre-sen-te hoy.
Vi-ve en-tre la gen-te,
con e-llas es-tá;
y vuel-ve de nue-vo
a dar-nos li-ber-tad.

3 Moun-tains and val-leys will
have to be made plain;
o-pen new high-ways,
new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer,
so come all and see,
and o-pen the door-ways
as wide as wide can be.

4 In low-ly sta-ble
the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
yet feel that pres-ence
through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians
and is with us now;
a-gain, on ar-riv-ing
Christ brings us lib-er-ty.