

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, 2019

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 worshipping 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 pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the red & black hymnals.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger (played by Sean McCracken)
We Three Kings (played by Daniel McCracken)

Traditional
Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: We waited.

P: **And imagined a savior.**

L: We imagined power.

P: **One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

L: We imagined a king on a white horse bringing bold justice.

P: **We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

L: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

P: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

L: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

P: Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

CAROL NO. 112 (red hymnal)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Away in a Manger

Traditional

TIME WITH CHILDREN

CAROL (see music below)

Jesus Our Brother

Piano

1. Je - sus our broth - er, strong and good, was
2. "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I
3. "I," said the sheep with curl - y horn, "I
4. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in

6
hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude, and the
gave you my man - ger for a your bed, I the
gave you my wool for a blan - ket warm, you
the sta - ble dark were glad to tell of the

9
friend - ly beasts a - round him stood,
gave my hay to pil - low your head;
wore my coat on Christ - mas morn;
gifts they gave Em - man - u - el,

13
Je - sus our broth - er. strong and good.
I," said the cow, all white and red.
I," said the sheep with curl - y horn.
the gifts they gave E - man - u - el.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

The Christmas Story – As Told Through the Story of Michelle Mouse

**This telling of the Christmas story involves congregational participation. Throughout the telling there will be cues on the screens inviting you to either sing, or make animal sounds, to help in the telling of our story. Please share your best Christmas spirit in your participation, and have fun! We thank all of the individuals who helped to lead us in this Christmas story. Their names can be found on the back page of the bulletin. The Christmas hymns below are included throughout this telling.*

Angels We Have Heard on High (Red hymnal #105)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Red hymnal # 108)

The First Nowell (Red hymnal # 118)

What Child is This (Black hymnal # 148)

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Once in Bethlehem

arr. Schram

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 120 (red hymnal)

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CAROL NO. 107 (red hymnal)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CHRISTMAS READING OF JOHN 1: 1-5

CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

CAROL (see p. 4)

Silent Night, Holy Night

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Traditional

*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.

References

¹The call to worship was originally written by Tim Graves, first posted on his blog *LiturgyBits: Little Bits for Worship* at <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>. Accessed on the *Re:Worship* website at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/12/christmas-call-to-worship-imagine-savior.html>, posted with permission for use in worship. Accessed December 16, 2019.

²*Michelle Mouse: a Christmas Tale* is adapted from Rev. Corey Turnpenny's adaptation in 2018, which was shared with permission for use in worship. Rev. Turnpenny's adaptation is based on the original *Michael Mouse: a Christmas Tale* which was published in *Cloth for the Cradle: Worship Resources and Reading for Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany* from Wild Goose Worship Group ©1997

NOTES

*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 in honor of our children and grandchildren by Steve & Barb Stebbins.

One poinsettia is placed in honor of the congregation of Mt. Zion UCC. It is a blessing to serve you! Merry Christmas, Pastor Danielle.

The bulletins are sponsored by the Bevivino Family – Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and may the message of Christmas fill your life with blessings of Peace, Joy, Love, and Hope into the New Year and beyond!

Thank you to Sean & Daniel McCracken for enhancing today's worship with their talents.

Thank you to Clyde Snyder, Caitlin Damon, Sam Neff, Sarah Crowell, Eloise Rhinehart, Nova Schildt, Delaney Shindler, Avery Shindler, Liam Neff, Katrina Rhinehart, Tobias Rhinehart, & Genevieve Rhinehart for leading us in the telling of the Christmas story.

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 2020 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 29th, 2019 in order to get credited to your 2019 giving statements.

Mt. Zion is Streaming! This service will be posted on the Mt. Zion website at: <http://www.mtzionucc.org/services-online.html>, with both a live feed (during the actual service) and a version you can watch later. 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.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

112

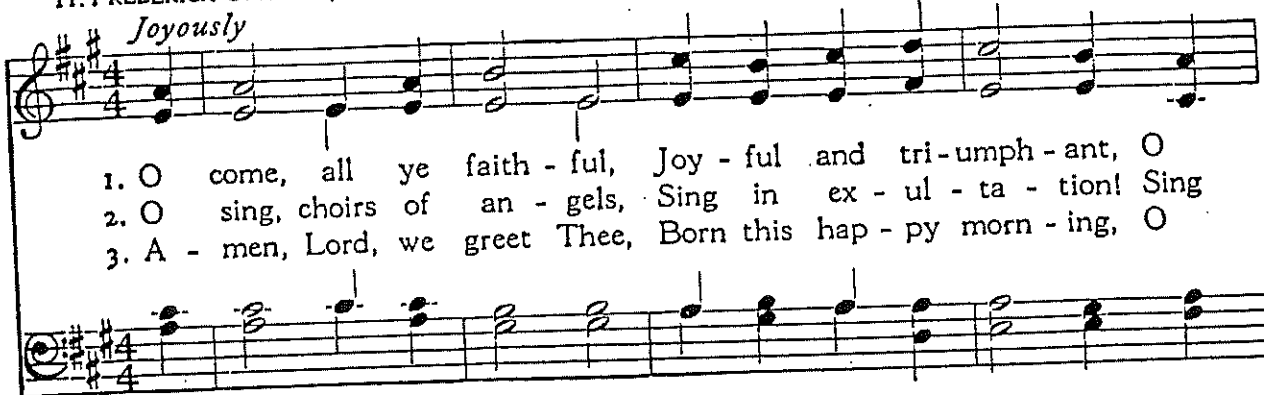
Latin Hymn, 18th century
Tr. FREDERICK OAKELEY, 1841

Irregular

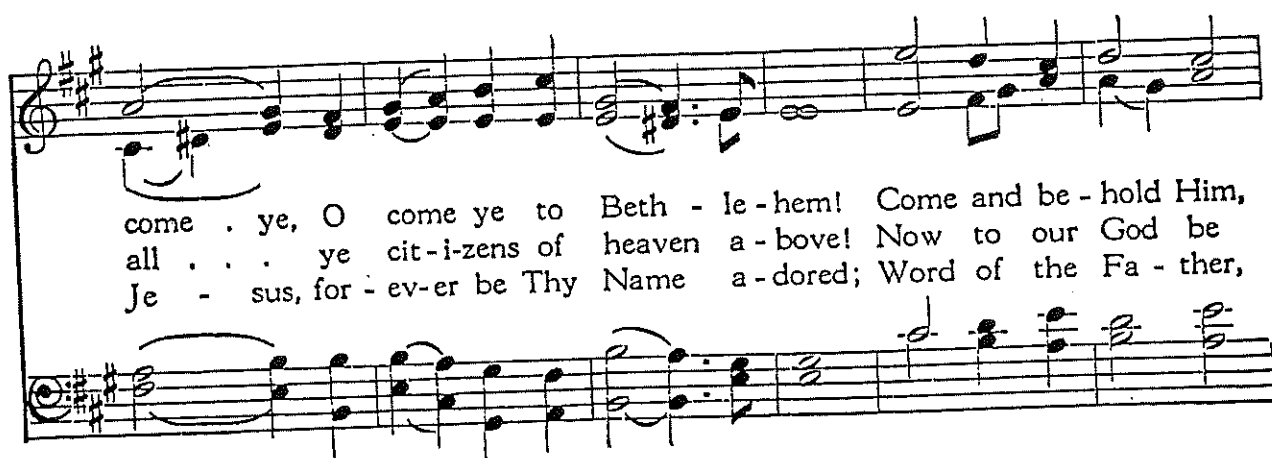
ADESTE FIDELES

WADE'S Cantus Diversi, 1751

Joyously



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - umph - ant, O
2. O sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion! Sing
3. A - men, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, O

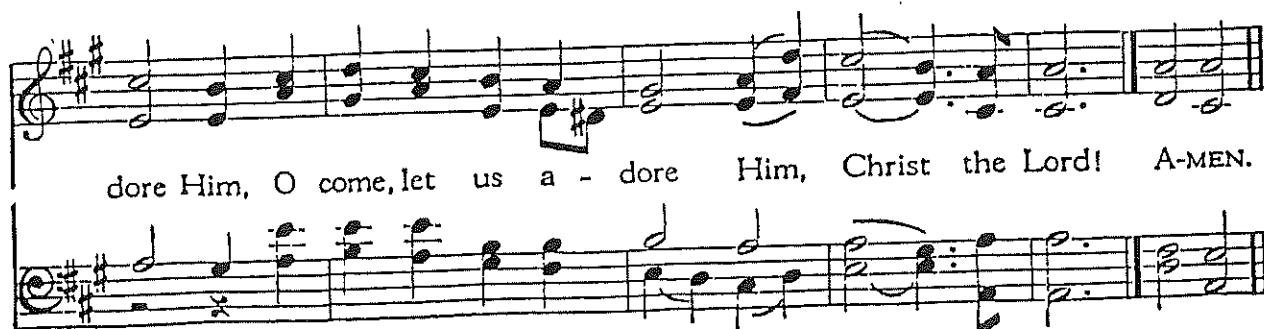


come . ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him,
all . . . ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Now to our God be
Je - sus, for - ev - er be Thy Name a - dored; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN



Born the King of an - gels! O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
Glo - ry in the high - est!
Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord! A - MEN.

His Nativity

EDMUND H. SEARS, 1850

C. M. D.

CAROL
R. STORRS WILLIS, 1850*In the style of a carol*

1. It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un - furled,
3. O ye, be - neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, By proph-et bards fore-told,

From an - gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold;
And still their heavenly mu - sic floats O'er all the wear - y world;
Who toil a - long the climb-ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold,

"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heaven's all-gra - cious King!"
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel-sounds The bless-ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing, A-MEN.