

# *Mt. Zion United Church of Christ*

First Sunday of Advent

10:30AM

## *The Prophecy ~ The Candle of Anticipation*

### OPENING<sup>1</sup>

### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>2</sup>

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us focus ourselves on God, hearing His word, and leaving behind those things that distract us.

**People: Come now, let the word dwell in us and with gratitude in our hearts, let us sing hymns, and spiritual songs to God.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 121 (black hymnal, see p. 3)

*All Earth is Waiting*

### CANDLELIGHTING<sup>3</sup>

**ALL SING (see p. 4): How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven. No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin, Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE (read by Mike Gibbs)  
MESSAGE

*Isaiah 35: 1-10*

HYMN (see p. 4)

*The People Who in Darkness Walked*

### 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.**

ANTHEM

*Like a Child I Wait*

by Schram

## TIME OF CONFESSION

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### SILENT CONFESSION<sup>4</sup>

*Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation. We confess waiting in anticipation and not enjoying the increasing excitement. Our need for instant gratification consumes us, more than the excitement for what is to come. When wonder does arrive, we quickly look towards the next gift, adventure, thrill or event without enjoying what is present in our lives. We confess that we build expectations in our lives and are not grateful for daily gifts that surround us. Remind us that waiting is the means God often uses to carry his plans in our lives. May we remember as we wait, God strengthens our heart. You alone O God anticipate our sin and forgive us. Through Your grace, we are wonderfully renewed.*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## CLOSING<sup>5</sup>

### POSTLUDE

*Beyond the Moon and Stars*

by Schutte

Thank you to Mary Jane Snyder & Jack Herlocker for serving on the tech team this morning. Thank you to Mike Gibbs for reading Scripture. Thank you to Barb Neff & Jordyn Myers for leading the hymns this morning! Thank you to the members of the Advent Worship Team for planning today's service. The members are Danika Dallam, Elaine Bevivino, Paula Strayer, David Firestone, Jen Cooper, Deb Herlocker, Travis Pinci, Denny Daugherty, & Pastor Danielle.

<sup>1</sup> Written by Deb Herlocker and read by Dennis Hartman

<sup>2</sup> The call to worship was written by David Firestone.

<sup>3</sup> The text for the candlelighting was written by Jen Cooper.

<sup>4</sup> The silent confession was written by Danika Dallam and Paula Strayer.

<sup>5</sup> The closing was written by Deb Herlocker and read by Dennis Hartman.

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# All Earth is Waiting

Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One,  
 2. Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el,  
 3. Moun - tains and vall - eys will have to be made plain;  
 4. In low - ly sta - ble the Prom - ised One ap - peared,

3

and o - pen fur - rows, the sow - ing of our God. All the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el": One whose  
 o - pen new high - ways, new high - ways for our God, Who is  
 yet feel that pres - ence through - out the earth to - day, For Christ

5

world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it  
 name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be, through  
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and  
 lives in all Chris - tians and is with us now; a -

7

cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.  
 whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.  
 o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be.  
 - gain, on ar - riv - ing Christ brings us lib - er - ty.

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given! So

6  
God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - ri - ous love of heaven. No one disc - erns God's

11  
com - ing, but in this world of sin, Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the

16  
dear Christ en - ters in.

# The People Who in Darkness Walked

**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - ri - ous  
 2. To greet you, Sun of Right - eous - ness, the gath - ering na - tions  
 3. To us the prom - ised child is born, to us a son is  
 4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace for - ev - er more a -  
 5. His peace and right - eous gov - ern - ment shall o - ver all ex -

5  
light; the heav - enly dawn broke forth on those who dwelt in death and  
 come, re - joic - ing as when reap - ers bring their har - vest trea - sures  
 given; and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all power in earth and  
 - dored, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the Might - y God and  
 - tend; on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his reign shall nev - er

9  
night, who dwelt in death and night.  
 home, their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 heaven, all power in earth and heaven.  
 Lord, the Might - y God and Lord.  
 end, his reign shall nev - er end.