

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30AM

The Ministry & Death of Jesus ~ The Candle of Wonder

OPENING¹

CALL TO WORSHIP²

L: In this season of Advent as we wait,

P: We realize this is hard.

L: In this season of Advent as we wait,

P: We come to sing, to pray and to give thanks.

L: In this season of Advent as we wait,

P: We come to wonder about Jesus' ministry.

L: In this season of Advent as we wait,

P: We come to wonder about Jesus' death.

L: In this season of Advent as we wait,

P: We come to remember the holy promises of God.

L: In this season of Advent as we wait,

ALL: We come to worship God together!

OPENING HYMN NO. 51 (black hymnal, see p. 3)

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

CANDLELIGHTING³

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 Danika Dallam)

Philippians 2: 5-11

MESSAGE

HYMN 122 (black hymnal, see p. 4)

Come O Long Expected Jesus

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

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. Schram

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION⁴

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

CLOSING⁵

POSTLUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

by Murtrie

Thank you to Lee Brown for donating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary! Thank you to Jack Herlocker, John Schriver, & Elaine Bevivino for serving on the tech team this morning. Thank you to Danika Dallam for reading Scripture this morning.. Thank you to Brenda Beyer, Braden Bicher, & Denny Daugherty 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.

¹ Written & read by Deb Herlocker

² The call to worship was written by David Firestone & Elaine Bevivino.

³ The text for the candlelighting was written by Jen Cooper.

⁴ The silent confession was written by Danika Dallam and Paula Strayer.

⁵ The closing was written & read by Deb Herlocker

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O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. O sing a song of Beth - le - hem, of shep - herds watch - ing
 2. O sing a song of Naz - a - reth, of days of joy and
 3. O sing a song of Gal - i - lee, of lake and woods and
 4. O sing a song of Cal - va - ry, its glo - ry and dis -

5

there, and of the news that came to them from an - gels in the
 sun, O sing of fra - grant flo - wers' breath, and of the sin - less
 hill, of One who walked up - on the sea and bade its waves be
 - may, of One who hung up - on the tree, and took our sings a -

9

air: The light that shone on Beth - le - hem fills all the world to -
 One: For now the flowers of Naz - a - reth in ev - ery heart may
 still: For though, like waves on Gal - i - lee, rough seas of trou - ble
 - way: For Christ who died on Cal - va - ry is ri - sen from the

13

- day; of Je - sus' birth and peace on earth the an - gels sing al -
 grow; now spreads the fame of Je - sus' name on all the winds that
 roll, when faith has heard the Sav - ior's word, falls peace up - on the
 grave; God's sov - ereign Child, who rec - on - ciled, is might - y now to

17

- way.
 blow.
 soul.
 save.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

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.

Come O Long Expected Jesus

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set all
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the
3. Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us

4
peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true
earth im - part; Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery
came to reign! Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to
as your own; By your all suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your

8
lib - er - ty.
long - ing heart.
us a - gain.
cross and crown.