

# ***Mt. Zion United Church of Christ***

1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

Telephone: 717-755-6117

E-mail: [office@mtzionucc.org](mailto:office@mtzionucc.org)

Website: [www.mtzionucc.org](http://www.mtzionucc.org)

Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Northridge, Transitional Minister

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

## ***Make Ready: Presence The Candle of Hope Sacrament of Holy Communion***

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Winter Snow with In the Bleak Midwinter*

arr. Tornquist

### **SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>**

Avery Shindler

*Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

### **OPENING SOLO NO. 120 (BH, v. 1)**

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where Emmanuel may go!*

### **INTRODUCTION<sup>2</sup>**

Matt & Tami Grimes

### **CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE<sup>3</sup>**

**L:** "Make ready! We're going to have a Savior!" Let us prepare for His presence.

**P:** **Make ready our spirits to be a gift, a presence in someone's life this Advent season.**

**L:** Make ready! The Prince of Peace invites us to experience the peace He gives.

**P:** **Make ready our hearts to share the peace of Christ with those whose hearts are filled with turmoil.**

L: Make ready to share the joy of this holy season.

**P: Make ready our voices to lift joyful praise to God so that the earth rings with the sound of celebratory songs.**

L: Make ready to be wrapped in God's love as Mary swaddled God's only Son.

**P: Make ready our arms to wrap God's lost and lonely children in love through our care, concern, and compassion.**

L: Make ready...for your caring, compassionate presence to be a gift and bring hope to someone this Advent. Today we light the candle of Hope.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 121** (BH, see p. 4)

*All Earth is Waiting*

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & BOX OPENING**

**SCRIPTURE  
MESSAGE**

*John 1: 6-8, 15 & 35-42*

**HYMN NO. 128** (BH, see p. 5)

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*A Star Will Soon Shine*

by Price/Besig<sup>4</sup>

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & REMEMBERING THE STORY<sup>5</sup>

L: In this season of Advent, we are reflecting and reimagining...How can we share in the cookies, but remember that our true nourishment comes from God?

**P: In this season of Advent, we are reflecting and reimagining.**

L: As we prepare for Advent, we first acknowledge to God, the things that keep us from fully immersing ourselves in the story of Christmas. Let us join together in a time of confession.

**P: Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about- the story of the birth of Jesus. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending; with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time to sit in the dark, to sit in the silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet- we still need You to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year.**

**May the warmth and concern we show continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love for You and for each other. Heal us, we pray. Amen.**

L: Friends in Christ, hear this Good News... We begin at the table where we can taste and see that the Lord is good.

**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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**HYMN NO. 104** (BH, see p. 6)

*We Hail You God's Anointed*

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **POSTLUDE**

*Meditation on Veni Emmanuel*

by Schrivener

Thank you to our Advent team for decorating our altar and planning our worship for this season. The Advent team members include Cindy Hogentogler, Lana Fritz, Connie Wolfe, Melissa Shindler, Deb Herlocker, Pastor Danielle, Denny Daugherty, & Travis Pinci. Also, thank you to the Dallam family for setting up the lights on the altar! A special thanks to Lee Brown for his donation of our Christmas tree and wreaths! Thank you to Brenda Beyer, Braden Bicher, Barb Neff, Debbie Butcher, & Mike Gibbs for serving on the praise team. Thank you to Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, Dave Firestone, & Ron Miles for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Robin Schriver & Tori Everhart for serving on the welcome team this morning!

<sup>1</sup> Pre-recorded voice: Avery Shindler

<sup>2</sup> Pre-recorded voices: Matt & Tami Grimes, text written by Cindy Hogentogler

<sup>3</sup> Written by Deb Herlocker

<sup>4</sup> Lyrics: *Watch and wait, O people of God; this is no time for doubt and fear. Let your faith be steadfast and strong. Soon a sign will appear. A star will soon shine o'er Bethlehem town. The prophets have said a child will come down, from heaven above to bring God's love. Let us prepare for the King. A star will soon shine alone in the night. The sky will be filled with glorious light,*

*And song a will be heard through all the world. Let us prepare for the King. Watch and wait all people of hope, love will come down from heav'n on high. Trust your faith. Be patient and know God will send you a sign. A star will soon shine to show us the way. The darkness we've known will soon be replaced By the light of God's Son, the Promised One. Let us prepare for the King.*

<sup>5</sup> Prayer of Confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel and published on holdfasttowhatgood.com

# All Earth is Waiting

Transl. Gerture Suppe

Alberto Taule

© 1988, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press

Piano 

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.

# In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti

Gustav Holst

\*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

♩ = 80

Piano



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2. Our God tran-scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
3. An-gels and arch - an - gels may have gath-ered there,
4. What can I of - fer, poor as I am?

6



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone; Snow had fall - en,  
heaven and earth shall flee a-way when Christ comes to reign; In the bleak mid -  
cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the mid-night air; But his moth - er  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a

11



snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid - win-ter, long a - go.  
- win - ter a sta-ble place suf - ficed the sov-ereign God al - mighty, Je - sus Christ.  
on - ly, in her maid-en bliss, wor-shiped the be - lov-ed with a kiss.  
wise one, I would do my part; but what can I of - fer: all my heart.

# We Hail You God's Anointed

James Montgomery

Reproduced under One License #A-725030

$\text{♩} = 80$



1. We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed  
2. You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful  
3. The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense  
4. O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall

5



One! Hail in the time a - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun! You  
earth; and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth. Be -  
bring; all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing; To  
rest; from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed: The

10



come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free; to  
fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go, and  
you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said, your  
tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move; your

14



take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.  
realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.  
name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.