

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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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

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Make Ready: Send Peace The Candle of Peace

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head with Breath of Heaven

arr. Tornquist

SCRIPTURE¹

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!

INTRODUCTION²

Matt & Tami Grimes

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE³

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

C: 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.

C: 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.

C: 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.

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

L: Make Ready! As Jesus calmed the storm when He said, "Peace, be still," prepare to hear His voice as He speaks to our hearts with the same words, "Peace, be still." Today we light the candle of Peace.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 131** (BH, see p. 4)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁴

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.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 106 (BH, v. 1, see p. 4)

ALL SING: My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me, who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny. The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace to those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

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

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9: 6-7

1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

Isaiah 58: 5-12

MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 2095 (FWS, see p. 5)

Star Child

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. 144** (BH, see p. 6)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on Forest Green

by Smith

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 Denny Daugherty, Tom Bair, Debbie Butcher, Jordyn Myers, & Paula Strayer for serving on the praise team. Thank you to Debbie Butcher for reading Scripture. Thank you to John Kollasch, Joe Vacante, & Jim Firestone for serving on the tech team. Thank you to the Dallam family, Deb & Terry Barnes, Glenda Abrams, Jeff & Nancy Sleeper, & Scott Kiefer for serving on the welcome teams this morning!

¹ Pre-recorded voice: Avery Shindler

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

³ Written by Deb Herlocker

⁴ Prayer of Confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel and published on holdfasttowhatisgood.com

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

$\text{♩} = 80$
Piano

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-
 3. And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing
 4. For lo, the days are hasten-ing on, by proph-et bards fore-

5

old, From an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of
 -furled, and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wear-y
 low, Who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and
 -told, when with the ev-er-cir-cling years comes round the age of

9

gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we
 world; A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-er-ing
 slow, Look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swi-ftly on the
 gold; When peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors

13

bring." The world in sol-emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
 wing, And ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 wing; O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing.
 fling, and all the world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

$\text{♩} = 80$
Piano

1. My heart sings out with joy-ful praise to God who rais-es me, Who

6

came to me when I was low and changed my des-ti-ny, The Ho-ly One, the

11

Liv-ing God, is al-ways full of grace To those who seek their Mak-er's will in

16

ev-ery time and

Star Child

Shirley Erena Murray

Carlton R. Young

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Star - Child, earth-Child, go - be-tween of God,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav-ing, want - ing more,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,

5

love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears,
wise child, faith child, know-ing joy in store,
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.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano 

1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ the Ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail, the Bear - er of God's Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

5 

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, Risen with ra - diant heal - ing wings.

9 

Joy - ful all you saints a - rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

13 

With the an - gel host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec ond birth.

17 

Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"
Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"
Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring!"