

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

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Associate Pastor

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

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

Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

***Close to Home***

***A Home for All***

*If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping 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 at the back of the church. 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 narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service. Additionally, after the children's message during the 10:30 AM service, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

#### **PRELUDE**

*Your Light Will Come Jerusalem*

by Hurd

#### **POEM**

*Advocating for Home*

by Rev. Sarah Speed

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

L: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

**P: It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace. We could choose to ignore it. We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.**

L: Instead, we come into this space.

**P: We let the world grow quiet. We listen.**

L: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

**P: We hear it. In listening, we worship.**

L: Let us draw near to God.

## CANDLELIGHTING<sup>1</sup>

L: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

**P: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"**

L: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

**P: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.**

L: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

**P: Joy is the energy of a new season.**

L: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

**P: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.**

L: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

**P: Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 120 BH** (see p. 4 of the bulletin)

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling*

## \*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

**ALL: Expansive God, We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:

**P: We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 106 NCH (see p. 5 of bulletin, v. 1)

*My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

**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.**

## SCRIPTURE

*Luke 3:1-18*

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## MESSAGE

**HYMN** (see p. 6)

*A Home for All*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)*

**ALL: Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name! Your kingdom among us, your will done the same By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone; Oh hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day; As we forgive others, our sins take away; In times of temptation, to lead us be near; From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things Your reign. And Yours is the power; all things You maintain. To You be the glory, resounding again From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Joseph's Lullaby*

by Bannister & Millard

# There's a Voice in the Wilderness

J. Lewis Mulligan, 1925

H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938

*Piano*  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry - ing, a  
 2. O Zi - on, who of - fers good tid - ings, to the  
 3. But the word of our God is for - ev - er, our De -

4  
 call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the desert a high - way, a  
 height of the moun - tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit - ies of Ju - dah: "Be -  
 - fend - er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of na - tions, to

8  
 high - way for our God! The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 - hold your God!" de - clare. Like the flowers of the field we per - ish, our  
 ren - der right the wrong. Then God shall be as a shep - herd, the

12  
 loft - y hills brought low: make straight all the crook - ed  
 hu - man works de - cay, the power and pomp of  
 lambs gath - ered to God's breast; and pas - tures of peace shall

15  
 pla - ces where Em - man - ue - el may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 greet them, to give to the wea - ry rest.

# My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano 

1. My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es  
2. The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the  
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to

5

Pno. 

me, Who came to me when I was low and  
proud. The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and  
be, for God has come in power to save, to

8

Pno. 

changed my des - ti - ny, The Ho - ly One, the  
van - ish like a cloud. The hun - gry all are  
set all peo - ple free. Re - mem - bering those who

11

Pno. 

Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace To those who seek their  
sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way. The poor of earth who  
wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day, Our Sav - ior comes to

15

Pno. 

Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.  
suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.  
all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

# A Home For All

Anna Strickland, 2021

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

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$\text{♩} = 80$   
Piano 

1. Light the can - dles, deck the halls we are mak - ing room for all.  
2. Stack the gifts be - neath the tree. Hang the lights where all can see.  
3. Set the ta - ble for a feast. Crys - tal, chin a, sil ver gleam.

5 

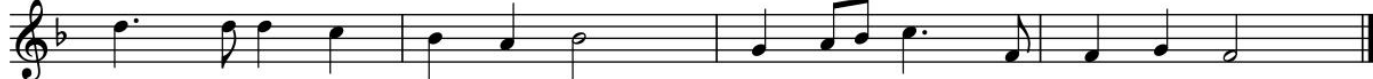
Prac - tice hos - pi - tal - i - ty, give in Chris - tian char - i - ty.  
Send cards full of Christ - mas cheer to the fam - ily far and near.  
Once the ban - quet has been blessed. Gath - er 'round in Christ - mas best.

9 

But to cre - ate last - ing change a trans - ac - tion - al ex - change  
But the great - est gift we share is a world that's just and fair.  
But Christ's ta - ble has been set with the sim - plest meal of bread.

13 

won't make straight our crook - ed ways or lift val - leys in - to plains.  
Though it feels so far a - way we work for God's prom - ised day.  
Of - fer - ing a - bun - dant grace here all peo - ple have a place.

17 

Proph - ets of the ag - es call: "We must build a home for all!"  
Proph - ets of the ag - es call: "We must build a home for all!"  
Proph - ets of the ag - es call: "We must build a home for all!"

# Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

George Handel

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♩ = 80

Piano




1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let  
2. Joy to the earth! The Sa - vior reigns; Let  
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and

5




earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - ry  
men their songs em - ploy! While fie - lds and  
makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries

9



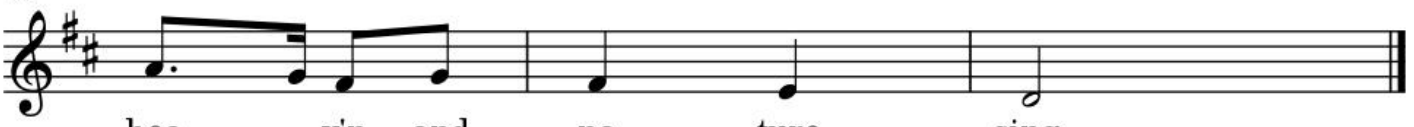
heart pre - pare Him room and heav'n and na - ture  
floods, rocks, hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing  
of his right - eous ness and won - ders of His

13



sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and hea - v'n and  
joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat re -  
love, and won - ders of His love, and won - ders and

17



hea - v'n and na - ture sing.  
- peat the sound - ing joy.  
won - ders of His love.

## References

<sup>1</sup>Our liturgy pieces are written by: Rev. Sarah Speed and used with permission as part of the Sanctified Arts: Close to Home worship materials.

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Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped in decorating the church for Advent/Christmas and to Dave Strine for picking up the Christmas tree. Also, thank you to Lee & Patsy Brown for donating the Christmas tree and the wreaths.

Thank you to Becky Hester, Scott Kiefer, Norma & Charlie Hull, Barb Stebbins, & Paula Strayer for serving on the welcome teams. Thank you to Norma Hull, Charlie Hull, Melissa Shindler, Cindy Hogentogler, Lana Fritz, Denny Daugherty, & Pastor Amy for planning today's worship. Thank you to Tama Allison & Andrew Texter for reading the poem during the service. Thank you to Dave Firestone, Jack & Deb Herlocker, and John Schriver for serving on the tech team. Thank you to the Denny Daugherty, Lana Fritz, & Tom Bair for leading the hymns in worship today.

## NOTES