

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM

Seeking Sanctuary
Christmas Cantata

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. 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 of the sanctuary 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. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance! We pray God's blessing upon you.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM *This Is Christmas* Cowart, Heiligenthal, Wood, & Craft

***CALL TO WORSHIP²**

L: We are seeking—

P: deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

L: We are seeking—

P: joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

L: We are seeking—

P: the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

²Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Thank you to all who participated in the Cantata!

Worship Choir

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Andrea Adams	Brenda Beyer	Tom Bair	Braden Bicher
Debbie Butcher	Jen Miller	David Firestone	Charlie Hull
Lana Fritz	Melody Stine	Michael Maletz	Rick Hogentogler
Carol Hartman	Paula Strayer		
Cindy Hogentogler			
Norma Hull	Accompanist	Choir Director	
Barb Neff	Travis Pinci	Denny Daugherty	

Instrumentalists/Vocalists

Catie Kiefer—French Horn/Vocalist	George DeMers—Tuba	Hayden Dallam—Drums
Missy Kiefer— Trombone	Amy Northridge—Clarinet	Caitlin Damon-Vocalist
Sam Neff— Trombone	Christian Maletz—Fife	
Jackson Kollasch—Trumpet/Piano	Danielle Neff—Flute	

Children's Choir/Bell Choir

Jack Bicher	Grace Neff
Addie Bickleman	Liam Neff
Jackson Markel	Freddie Northridge
Leyla Morcos	Nova Ramsey
	Tobias Rhinehart

We offer a hearing assistance system called *Listen Technologies*. If you would like to use a receiver, please check with the volunteers at the sound booth at the rear of the sanctuary.

Thank you to John & Connie Wolfe, Faye Heal, and Robin Schriver for serving on the welcome team. Thank you to Jim Firestone, Elaine Bevivino, John Kollasch, & Jack Herlocker for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Genevieve Rhinehart for reading the poem.

²Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Traditional
SCRIPTURE Luke 2
WORSHIP CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR *A Manger so Far From Home* by Mock

WORSHIP CHOIR *Still, Still, Still* by Gotsch
WORSHIP CHOIR *The Shepherd's Carol* by Forrest
WORSHIP CHOIR *Worship Christ the Newborn King* by Larson

HYMN *Sing We the Song of Emmanuel* Papa, Townend, Boswell

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM *I Still Believe in Christmas* Wilson, Pardo, & West

POEM (read by Genevieve Rhinehart)

HYMN *Come Home for Christmas* West/Pardo

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM *All is Well* Smith; Kirkpatrick/Graham

*BENEDICTION

*PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM

We Need Christmas

L: We are seeking, but here in this space,

P: We are found.

L: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

P: God is here. We are found. Amen.

HYMN (see below)

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck

© 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

♩ = 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
me, Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti -
proud. The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a
be, for God has come in power to save, to set all people

9
- ny, The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of
cloud. The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a -
free. Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing

13
grace To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and
- way. The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new
day, Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a -

17
place.
day.
- way.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CANDLELIGHTING

L: God's love is like an open door.

P: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

L: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

P: God's love is a table with room for you.

L: God's love is a crackling fireplace.

P: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

L: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

P: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

L: God's love is a home for all.

P: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

L: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

P: Amen.

HYMN (see below, vs. 1 & 3)

Love Came Down at Christmas

Christina G. Rossetti, 1885

Maurice C. Whitney, 1962

♩ = 80

Piano

1. Love came down at Christ-mas, Love all love-ly,
 2. Wor-ship we the God-head, Love in-car-nate,
 3. Love shall be our to-ken; love be yours and

4

Love di-vine; Love was born at Christ-mas;
 Love di-vine; Wor-ship we our Je-sus,
 love be mine; Love to God and neigh-bor,

7

star and an-gels gave the sign.
 but where is God's sa-cred sign?
 love for plea and gift and sign.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (see below, v. 3)

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

ALL SING: Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save.

♩ = 80

Piano

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice; now give heed to
 2. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice; now you know of
 3. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice; now you need not

7

what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day; Ox and ass be-fore him bow, a-
 end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this! God has o-pened heav-en's door, and
 fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to

12

-sleep with-in the man-ger now. Christ is born to-day, Christ is born to-day!
 you are blessed for-ev-er-more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
 gain the ev-er-last-ing hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

SCRIPTURE
 WORSHIP CHOIR

Song of Mary

Luke 1:39-55
 by Mock/Lopez

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.