

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 Northridge, Transitional Minister
Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Secretary

December 24, 2022

7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve is a joyous time for all who open their hearts and minds to our loving Creator. Let us allow the true meaning of Christmas to stir up love within us.

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 when it is passed. 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 pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the red & black hymnals.

PRELUDE (played by Daniel McCracken)

The Little Drummer Boy

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor Amy: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other! A night where Jesus' family created a home right where they were and invited all inside.

Pastor Dani: The donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem, was made welcome.

ALL: God welcomes the donkey. Heehaw.

Pastor Amy: The cows that gave up their feed box so Jesus would have a place to lay, they were made welcome too.

ALL: God welcomes the cows. Moooo!

Pastor Dani: The shepherds and sheep heard the good news and ran through the field to see if there was room for them too. And they were welcomed in.

ALL: God welcomes the sheep. Baaaa.

Pastor Amy: I imagine even the field mouse who made its bed in the very corner of the stable found home in the presence of Emmanuel, God with us, the baby Jesus.

ALL: God welcomes the mouse. Squeak.

Pastor Dani: The angel choir sang setting the scene their voices ringing through

Bethlehem like bells. Announcing the Christ Child is here and all are welcome.

ALL: God welcomes all through the angels call. Ring bells.

Pastor Amy: And so we too are invited this evening to once again join baby Jesus at his home, made a stable, with room for all. Let us join the angels song singing Angels We Have Heard on High—and all are invited to ring their bells during the Glorias.

CAROL NO. 105 (red hymnal)

Angels We Have Heard on High

WORDS OF WELCOME

CAROL NO. 112 (red hymnal)

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADVENT CALENDAR DAYS 1-5²

HYMN NO. 117 (black hymnal, vs. 1 & 7)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ADVENT CALENDAR DAYS 6-11

CAROL NO. 109 (red hymnal, vs. 1 & 3)

Away in a Manger
Children's Choir

ADVENT CALENDAR DAYS 12-17

HYMN NO. (black hymnal)

Go Tell it on the Mountain

ADVENT CALENDAR DAYS 18-24

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Traditional

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS & 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.

SOLO (sung by Caitlin Damon)

Adore

by Chris Tomlin

SHARING GOD'S LIGHT

CANDLELIGHTING

Pastor Amy: Here, in God's house, there is hope—

P: For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

Pastor Dani: In God's house, there is peace—

P: for all that separates us from God falls away.

Pastor Amy: In God's house, there is joy—

P: Because God created music, and Christmas cookies, and laughter that is contagious and babies that love peek-a-boo; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

Pastor Dani: In God's house, there is love—

P: Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.

Pastor Amy: And in the center of our hope, in the center of our peace, in the center of our joy, in the center of our love, is God- who came to this earth to dwell among us. Who invites each and every one of us to be at home with Him. Who brings God's home to us.

P: So tonight we share God's light, for God's love just could not stay home. Amen.

CAROL (see p. 5)

Silent Night, Holy Night

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN (red hymnal)

Joy to the World

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light,
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Merry Christmas to All!

Welcome Team & Communion Servers: The Strine Family

Thank you to Daniel McCracken, Caitlin Damon, the Children's Bell Choir, and the Children's choir for enhancing today's worship with their talents.

Thank you to Patsy & Lee Brown, of Brown's Tree Farm, for donating our Christmas tree and wreaths.

Thank you to Charlie Hull for sharing the Nativity panel he created hanging above the fireplace on the chancel.

During the candle lighting ceremony, please hold lighted candles vertical, and **tip the unlighted** candle to the lighted one.

Please pick up your 2023 offering envelopes if you haven't already done so. They are on the table in the west narthex. All contributions must be received at the church on or before December 25th, 2022 in order to get credited to your 2022 giving statements.

Mt. Zion is Streaming! This service will be posted on the Mt. Zion website at: <http://www.mtzionucc.org/streaming.html>, with both a live feed (during the actual service) and a version you can watch later. 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.

¹The Call to Worship is written by Rev. Amy E. Northridge, December 2022.

²The Christmas Eve Advent Calendar was written by Rev. Amy E. Northridge, December 2022.

