

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

December 25, 2022

10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

*Today we celebrate the birth of Christ! All are welcome to join us as we give thanks for the greatest gift
God has given to us!*

*If you are a guest, thank you for worshipping 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 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.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER¹

L: We give thanks to you God, for the body of a tiny baby, life and breath in a tiny
ribcage.

P: Emmanuel, God with us, a promise of salvation.

L: We give thanks for loving parents, for the light of a star, for the radiance of
angels, for the running feet of shepherds, for all the joy of that first Christmas.

P: We thank you today, that you have given our bodies life and breath this Christmas, that we are here, now, gathered with these people, joined in one accord in prayer to you.

L: Let the light of Jesus shine in our heart as we come together to worship.

P: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE¹

L: Today we mark Christmas Day, the birthday of Jesus, and today we light the Christ-candle!

P: Advent is completed, and we enter the Christmas season, rejoicing in a newborn Savior!

L: Jesus is our hope realized, our peace fulfilled, our joy complete, God's love overflowing.

P: We light the Christ candle, giving thanks with all the angels in heaven for the Christmas gift of Jesus Christ our Lord.

CAROL SING

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found there was no room. We confess that in the midst of all our anxieties, we have not made room in our hearts for others. We confess that, paralyzed by fear, prejudice or apathy, we have not made room in our homes for the stranger. We confess that, forgetting the welcome we have been shown, we have not made room in your church for those who are different from us. We confess that in the busyness of Christmas time, we have not made room in our lives for you.

(time for reflection)

Gracious God, forgive us and renew us. Break open our hearts, throw open the doors, open our eyes to your presence and open our arms wide to welcome you. We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh. We renounce evil. We claim your love. We choose to be made whole.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 154 (black hymnal, chorus, verse 1, chorus, see p. 5)

Go Tell It On the Mountain

ALL SING: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere. Go tell it on
the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-7

MESSAGE

The Innkeeper's Wife

Andrea Adams

CAROL SING

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.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 120** (red hymnal, see p. 6)

Joy to the World

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Merry Christmas to All!

Welcome Team: Doris Loucks, Kathy Sweeney

Thank you to Andrea Adams for enhancing today's worship with her 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.

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 Opening Prayer and Lighting of the Christ Candle were adapted from liturgies written by Carol Penner and posted on her website, www.leadingworship.com and accessed on December 8, 2022.

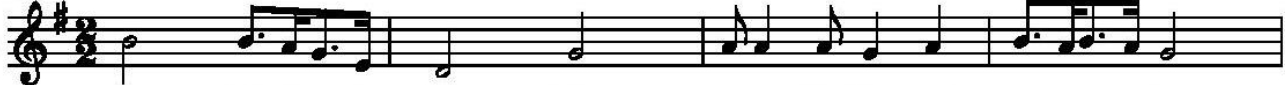
²The prayer of confession is a combination of two confessional prayers. One was written by Cara Heavey and published on the website <https://worshipwords.co.uk/adventchristmas-prayer-of-confession-and-assurance-of-grace-cara-heavey-uk/> and the other was written by Nathan Nettleton and published at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/christmas-confession.html>. Both were accessed on December 8, 2022.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African American Spiritual


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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$




Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

5



Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je-sus Christ is born! 1. While
2. The
3. Down

9



shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -
shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

13



- hold through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

George Handel

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$\text{♩} = 80$

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.