

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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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 3, 2023

8:00 & 10:30 AM

***First Sunday of Advent: In the Stable
When Jesus Comes: He Will Bring Hope
Sacrament of Holy Communion***

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 narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! 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 AND CONCERNS**

POEM

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP²

Mary's Song

With You
by Grant & Eato

L: Alleluia the Christ child comes, and we await his birth.

C: Let us throw off our distractions, and allow the chaos to settle.

L: Let us watch for the signs, and listen to the messengers.

C: Let us stand on tiptoe, and shout aloud and sing.

ALL: Something new is emerging, something new is being birthed.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY³

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

C: And we wait in joyful expectation,

L: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,

C: Shed your light on all that is filled with darkness.

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

C: And we wait with hope filled hearts,

L: Draw close, God's beloved son,

C: Teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.

L: We are a people of hope. Our hearts are full of anticipation for the coming of our beloved Christ Child. For God is to be among us and we will see a great light in the midst of our night. Let us light the Candle of Hope.

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

C: With this light, we wait for the hope you bring.

L: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

C: Lord we wait, Come soon and fill us with your life.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 121 NCH** (black hymnal see p. 6) *All Earth is Waiting*

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION⁴

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁵

C: We journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King.

Ears attuned to the song of angels. Eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.

Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope you bring, and the promise of a Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 196 UM HYMNAL (see p. 7)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ALL SING: Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

**SCRIPTURE
MESSAGE**

Luke 1:26-38

HYMN NO. 123 NCH (black hymnal see p. 8)

Mary, Woman of the Promise

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY *Still, Still, Still with Mary Did You Know* arr. Tornquist

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 370 NCH (see p. 9, v. 4) *What Gift Can We Bring?*

ALL SING: This gift we now bring, this present, this token, these
words can convey it, the joy of this day! When grateful we come,
remembering, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

REMEMBERING THE STORY AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER⁶

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

L: In this bread

C: We hold hope in Christ's presence

L: In this cup

C: We hold hope in Christ's forgiveness

L: Come and share in Christ's meal—all is ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*At Mt. Zion all are welcome to share in Christ's meal. Today, Communion will be distributed by our
Welcome Team members and passed down the pews for distribution —first bread, then the cup which is
filled with grape juice. Gluten Free wafers are available as desired. We invite you to hold your
bread and cup until the community is invited to eat together by the Pastor. Please dispose of your
cup after worship.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER⁷

C: We praise and thank you, Creator God, for you have not left us alone. Each year you come to us, Emmanuel, God with us in a manger. Each time you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. In time or out of time you will be revealed and we shall see you face to face. Give us courage, God our strength, to see your Christ in all who suffer, to be hands to the helpless, food for the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. And as we wait for you, help us to receive the gifts that only you can give. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 102 NCH** (black hymnal see p. 10) *O How Shall I Receive You*

***BENEDICTION⁸**

POSTLUDE

Immanuel

by Townend

References

¹Poem: With You © 2010 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia used with permission.

²The Call to Worship is written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/>.

³The Candle Lighting Liturgy is adapted from prayers written by Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/> and Advent-candle litanies written by Rev. Jolene Cadenbach, Pastor of Arcadia United Church of Christ in Arcadia, CA. and accessed on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/lighting-advent-candles.html> on 11/13/23

⁴The invitation to confessions is adapted from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson. <http://adventinart.org/> and accessed on 11/13/23

⁵The Prayer of Confession is adapted from writings John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. www.faithandworship.com and accessed 11/13/23

⁶The Communion Liturgy is adapted from Richard Bott's "Communion Liturgy for Advent." Posted on the Liturgy Alive website. http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/june05/26_hugh.htm and accessed on 11/13/23

⁷The Post Communion Prayer is posted on the Anglican Prayerbook website. <http://anglicanprayerbook.org.nz/525.htm> and shared and accessed with permission 11/13/23

⁸The Benediction is adapted from and Advent Blessing written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws> and accessed for use on 11/13/23

Volunteers

Thank you to Lee & Patsy brown for donating our beautiful Christmas Tree and the Christmas wreaths!

Thank you to the Advent Team for planning today's worship service. The Advent Team members are Jennifer Damon, Denny Daugherty, Deb Herlocker, David Firestone, Lana Fritz Cindy Hogentogler, Barb Stebbins, & Pastor Amy.

Thank you to Faye Heal for creating the beautiful bulletin cover this week!

Thank you to Carol Bair, Brenda Beyer, Elaine Bevivino, Karen & Mike Gibbs, and Faye Heal for setting up our nativity scene.

8:00 AM Welcome Team Members & Communion Servers: Barry & Nancy Schwartz

8:00 AM Tech Team: Denny Daugherty & Dave Firestone

8:00 AM Liturgist: Tama Allison

10:30 AM Welcome Team Members & Communion Servers: Robin Schriver, Nancy & Jeff Sleeper

10:30 AM Tech Team: George DeMers, Paul Ramsey, John Schriver

10:30 AM Liturgist: Jen Miller

Poem Reader: David Firestone

All Earth is Waiting

Transl. Gerture Suppe

Alberto Taule

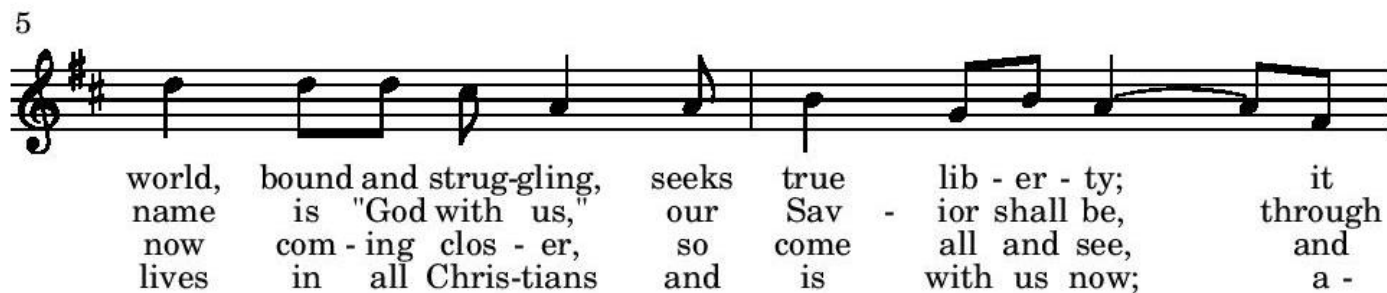
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Piano 

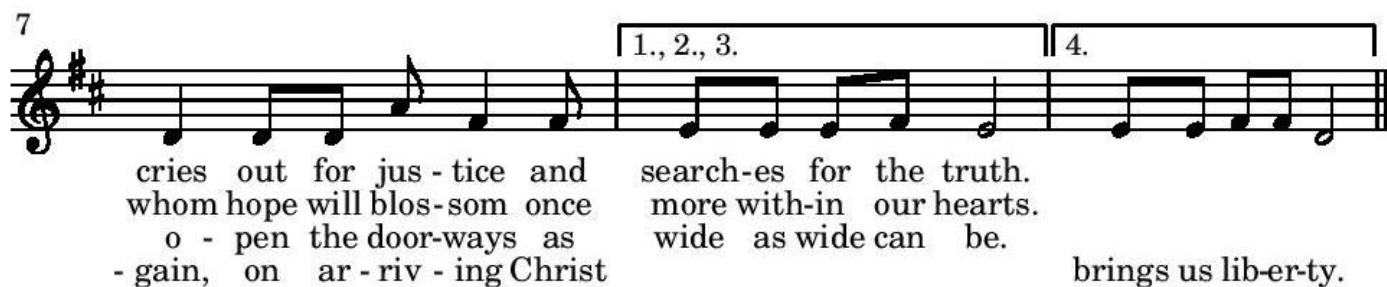
1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
 2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is - ra - el,
 3. Moun-tains and vall-eys will have to be made plain;
 4. In low - ly sta-ble the Prom-ised One ap-peared,

3 

and o - pen fur-rows, the sow - ing of our God. All the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em-man - u - el": One whose
 o - pen new high-ways, new high-ways for our God, Who is
 yet feel that pres-ence through - out the earth to - day, For Christ

5 

world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
 name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be, through
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
 lives in all Chris-tians and is with us now; a -

7 

cries out for jus - tice and search-es for the truth.
 whom hope will blos-som once more with-in our hearts.
 o - pen the door-ways as wide as wide can be.
 - gain, on ar - riv - ing Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Wesley, 1744

Prichard, 1830

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written for piano on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the staff. The score is divided into five systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 8, 15, 22, 29). The lyrics are arranged in two columns per system, with some lines having two verses. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fifth system.

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a

8
free; from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our
King, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious

15
rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal spir - it rule in

22
all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion,
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it,

29
joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Mary, Woman of the Promise

Mary Frances Fleischaker, 1988

Richard Gillard, 1977

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Mar - y, wo - man of the prom - ise;
 2. Mar - y, song of ho - ly wis - dom;
 3. Mar - y, morn - ing star of jus - tice;
 4. Mar - y, mod - el of com - pas - sion;
 5. Mar - y, wom - an of the gos - pel;

3

ves - sel of your peo - ple's dream:
 sung be - fore the world be - gan:
 mir - ror of the Ra - diant Light:
 wound - ed by your off - spring's pain:
 hum - ble home for trea - sured seed:

5

Through your o - pen, will - ing spir - it
 Faith - ful to the Word with - in you,
 In the shad - ows of life's jour - ney,
 When our hearts are torn by sor - row,
 Help us to be true dis - ci - ples,

7

wa - ters of God's good - ness streamed.
 as you bore God's won - drous plan.
 be a bea - con for our sight.
 teach us how to love a - gain.
 bear - ing fruit in word and deed.

What Gift Can We Bring (Mueller)

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. What gift can we bring what pres - ent
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who
 3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of
 4. This gift we now bring, this pres - ent

4

what to - ken? What words can con - vey it, the joy of
 had vi - sion, who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could
 sur - pris - es, for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row
 this to - ken, these words can con - vey it, the joy of

8

this day? When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering
 come true. Give thanks for the now, for stud - y,
 may bring, The Word is our prom - ise al - ways,
 this day! When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering,

12

re - joic - ing, what song can we of - fer in hon - or
 for wor - ship, for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in -
 for - ev - er; we rest in God's keep - ing and live in
 re - joic - ing, this song we now of - fer in hon - or

16

and praise?
 - to deed.
 God's love.
 and praise.

O How Shall I Receive You (St. Theodulph)

Paul Gerhart, 1653

Melchior Teschner, 1615

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your
 2. Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to
 3. You come, O Christ, with glad-ness, in mer - cy and good -

5
 way, blessed hope of ev-ery peo-ple my soul's de-light and stay? O
 me; your thirst for mysal - va-tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty. O
 - will, to bring an end to sad-ness and bid our fears be still. In

10
 Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light, to
 love be-yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace in
 pa-tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day when

14
 know what-e'er is plea - sing and wel-come in your sight.
 love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 a re-newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.