

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 10, 2023

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent: In the Stable
When Jesus Comes: He Will Bring Peace for Renewal

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 10:30AM 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

Joseph's Lullaby

After the Meltdown
by Bannister & Millard

CALL TO WORSHIP²

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 where anxiety robs us of our peace.

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 who seek peace. We know that God has told us to turn our weapons of war into instruments that benefit all humanity. In the name of that Child who was born long ago to become the Prince of Peace, we now light the Candle of Peace.

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

C: With this light, we wait for the peace 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. 120 NCH** (black hymnal see p. 6)

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

***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 renewed peace you
bring in 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.**

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

(10:30 AM) **HANDCHIME ANTHEM** *O Come O Come Emmanuel* Traditional
MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 105 NCH (black hymnal see p. 8)

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

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.

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose

Traditional

*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

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 101 NCH** (black hymnal see p. 10)

Comfort, Comfort O My People

***BENEDICTION**⁶

POSTLUDE

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

by MacGimsey

References

¹Poem: After the Meltdown is written by Debra Herlocker for our Advent series.

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 Benediction is adapted from an 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 Emily Schriver for creating the beautiful bulletin cover this week!

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

8:00 AM Welcome Team Members: John Wolfe, Deb & Terry Barnes

8:00 AM Tech Team: Denny Daugherty & Ron Miles

8:00 AM Liturgist: Connie Wolfe

10:30 AM Welcome Team Members: Jen & Mark Miller, Barb Stebbins, & Paula Strayer

10:30 AM Tech Team: Elaine Bevivino, Denny Daugherty, & John Schriver

10:30 AM Liturgist: Andrea Adams

Poem Readers: Jack Herlocker & Jesse Smith


There's a Voice in the Wilderness

J. Lewis Mulligan, 1925

H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938


$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



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 des-ert a
 height of the moun-tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit-ies of
 - fend-er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of

7



high - way, a high-way for our God! The val - leys shall be ex -
 Ju - dah: "Be - hold your God!" de - clare. Like the flowers of the field we
 na - tions, to ren - der right the wrong. Then God shall be as a

11



- alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought low: make
 per - ish, our hu - man works de - cay, the
 shep-herd, the lambs gath-ered to God's breast; and

14



straight all the crook - ed pla - ces where Em - man-ue - el may go!
 power and pomp of na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 pas - tures of peace shall greet them, to give to the wea - ry rest.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Wesley, 1744

Prichard, 1830

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



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.

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. "Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear,
 2. "Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine,
 3. "Peace to all and God's good-will,"

3

stay with me, for the ba - by's near;
 I will cra - dle the child di - vine;
 heaven and earth with this song will fill;

5

God will sure-ly your good - ness hear, as you will love this
 Here will heav-en and earth com-bine, for you will bear God's
 Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be born in Beth - le -

8

new - born child," says Mar - y.
 child, O dear - est Mar - y.
 - hem, the child of Mar - y.

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.

Comfort, Comfort O My People

Johannes Olearius, 1671

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. Com - fort com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace so
2. For the her-ald's voice is call - ing in the des ert
3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed and the rough - er

4



says our God; Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed
far and near, Bid - ding us to make re pen tance
pla - ces plain! Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

7



mourn-ing un der sor row's load. Speak un - to Je - ru-sa-lem
since the realm of God is here. Oh that warn ing cry o bey!
for Mes - si - ah's ho ly reign. For God's glo ry ev-er-more

11



of the peace that waits for them; Tell them that their sins I co - ver,
Now pre pare for God a way; Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing
shall be known o'er all the world; And all flesh shall see the to ken

15



and their war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
that God's word is ne ver bro ken.

NOTES