

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. 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 17, 2023

10:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent: In the Stable When Jesus Comes: He Will Bring Joy to Guide Us 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 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.

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS AND CONCERNS OPENING READING

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Advent Introit & Blessing

arr. Nordmeyer

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in preparation

Congregation: For good news is about to be proclaimed.

L: We gather in expectation

C: For joy is about to explode in our midst.

L: We gather in celebration

**C: For we are those people who have said ...yes to the manger, yes to love
enfleshed, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.**

L: With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

HYMN (see below)

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck

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♩ = 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 peo - ple

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 dawning

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.

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY¹

L: The coming of our Lord is near,

C: And we wait in joyful expectation,

L: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,

C: Renew your peace within this weary world.

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: Joy to the world! Our God is coming to bring us "good news." May we sing songs of praise and gladness. We know that our Savior reigns. Let us light the Candle of Joy.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

C: With this light, We wait with joy,

L: Knowing with joy that you will guide us.

C: Lord we wait, bubbling in expectation of your birth.

HYMN (see below, v. 1)

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Schop

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Piano $\text{♩} = 150$

1. Break forth O beau-te-ous heav-enly light and ush - er in the
2. This night of won - der, night of joy, was born the Christ, our
3. Come, dear - est child, in - to our hearts, and leave your crib be -
4. Break forth O beau-te-ous heav-enly light to her - ald our sal -

5
morn - ing. O shep-herds shrink not with af-fright but hear the an-gel's warn - ing. This
broth - er; he comes, not might - y to de-stroy, to bid us love each oth - er. How
- hind you! Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you. To
- va - tion. He stoops to earth the God of might our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion. He

10
child now weak in in - fan - cy our con - fi - dence and joy shall be the
could he quit his king - ly state for such a world of greed and hate? What
you the hon - or, thanks, and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace; come,
comes in hu - man flesh to dwell our God with us Im - man - u - el the

14
power of Sa - tan break - ing our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.
deep hu - mil - i - a - tion se - cured the world's sal - vat - tion!
con - quer and de - liv - er this world, and us, for - ev - er.
night of dark-ness end - ing, our fall - en race be - friend - ing.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

L: Advent God,

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 joyfully focused on the pathways you
guide us to, held in the promise of a Savior. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (see below, vs. 4 & 3) *Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

ALL SING: Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, to herald our
salvation. He stoops to earth, the God of might, our hope and
expectation. He comes in human flesh to dwell, our God with us,
Immanuel, the night of darkness ending, our fallen race befriending.

Come dearest Child into our hearts and leave Your crib behind You.
Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find You. To
You be honor thanks and praise for all Your gifts this time of grace.
Come conquer and deliver this world and us forever.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Schop

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Piano $\text{♩} = 150$

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2. This night of won-der, night of joy, was born the Christ, our
3. Come, dear-est child, in-to our hearts, and leave your crib be-
4. Break forth O beau-te-ous heav-enly light to her-ald our sal-

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- hind you! Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you. To
- va - tion. He stoops to earth the God of might our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion. He

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child now weak in in - fan - cy our con - fi - dence and joy shall be the
could he quit his king - ly state for such a world of greed and hate? What
you the hon - or, thanks, and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace; come,
comes in hu - man flesh to dwell our God with us Im - man - u - el the

14
power of Sa - tan break - ing our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing,
deep hu - mil - i - a - tion se - cured the world's sal - vat - tion!
con - quer and de - liv - er this world, and us, for - ev - er.
night of dark - ness end - ing, our fall - en race be - friend - ing.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

Joy to the World
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Traditional
Traditional

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORSHIP CHOIR
WORSHIP CHOIR

Do You Know the Way to Bethlehem
Runnin' Down to Bethlehem

by Wagner
by Choplin

HYMN (see below)

How Great Our Joy


arr. Jungst

How Great Our Joy

arr. Jungst, 1890

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tid - ings
2. There shall be born, so He did say, In Beth - le -
3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who
4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, That ev - er

6 *Refrain*




brought an an - gel bright. How great our joy! Great our joy!
- hem a Child to - day.
shall re - deem us all.
joy our hearts shall fill.

13



Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on

20



high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 370 NCH (see below, 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!

What Gift Can We Bring (Mueller)

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Piano 

- 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM
HYMN (see below)

Joy Unto the World

arr. Foster/Wasson
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Traditional)

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

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$\text{♩} = 80$
Piano 

1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ the Ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail, the heaven-erborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right eous ness!

5



Peace on earth, and mer cy mild, God and sin ners rec on ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come to the earth from heav - en's home;
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

9



Joy ful all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God head see; Hail the'in car nate De i ty,
Mild He lays His glo ry by, Born that man no more may die,

13



With the'an - gel - ic host pro claim, "Christ is born in Beth le hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

17



Hark the her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new-born King!"
Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"
Hark the her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new-born King!"

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM
WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Joy Has Dawned

Getty & Townend

Let the People Sing Joy

Bolin/Handel/Koch/Oakley/Wade/Watts

***BENEDICTION³**

***HYMN**
POSTLUDE

Advent Introit & Blessing (Share the Light)

arr. Nordmeyer

Thank you to all who participated in the Cantata!

Worship Choir

Soprano

Andrea Adams
Vanessa Bicher
Debbie Butcher
Lana Fritz
Carol Hartman
Barb Neff

Alto

Brenda Beyer
Jen Miller
Melody Stine
Paula Strayer

Tenor

David Firestone
Michael Maletz

Bass

Tom Bair
Braden Bicher

Accompanist

Travis Pinci

Choir Director

Denny Daugherty

Instrumentalists/Vocalists

Caitlin Damon—Vocalist
Denny Daugherty—Vocalist/Acoustic Guitar
Catie Kiefer—Vocalist

Children's Choir/Bell Choir

Jack Bicher
Addie Bickleman
Jackson Markel
Hayden McCarthy
Macey McCarthy

Freddie Northridge
Nova Ramsey
Tobias Rhinehart
Elliot Stine

Hand Chime Choir

Andrea Adams
Christian Maletz

Vanessa Bicher
Jen Miller

Charlie Hull
Tim Rhinehart

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

Thank you to Mason Damon 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.

Welcome Team Members: Caitlin Damon, Jennifer Damon, Sarah Shaffer, Melissa Shindler

Tech Team: Elaine Bevivino, Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch, Joe Vacante

References

¹The 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

²The Prayer of Confession is adapted from writings John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. www.faithandworship.com and accessed 11/13/23

³The Benediction is adapted from and Avent 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

NOTES