

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 31, 2023

10:30 AM

New Year's Eve Christmas Carol Countdown

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

Welcoming a New Year

CALL TO WORSHIP²

L: A new day has dawned, a new year waiting just around the corner,

C: O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice

L: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

C: O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path

L: We enter this new year with hope and excitement—knowing Christ is born and with us each step of the way.

C: O Lord, remind us that You lead us. O Lord, guide us as look to You, and worship You. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE
CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Luke 2:22-40 (The Message)

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #12

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #12

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #11

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #11

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #10

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #10

TIME OF CONFESSION

INVITATION

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

L: As we look at the year behind us—

C: We know that we have been imperfect. We could have held more tightly to the blessings of your hope. We could have worked harder to welcome the renewal of your peace. We could have walked more faithfully on the pathways of joy where you lead. We could have used the power of your love to change more lives, and anchor our own. For the ways we have forgotten your promises. God forgive us.

L: A new year coming and God is with us In loving, in caring, in hoping and expecting, God is with us, God forgives us, and never lets us go.

C: God live in us, God live with us, God live through us.

L: God keep us faithful through the days that lie ahead. God keep us caring as we see the pain that fills your world. God keep us serving as we seek to do your will.

C: God live in us, God live with us, God live through us

L: God keep us loving toward neighbors near and far. God keep us trusting through the uncertainties of life. God keep us sharing from your generous abundance.

C: God live in us, God live with us, God live through us. Amen.

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #9

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #9

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #8

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #8

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #7

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #7

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.

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #6

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #6

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #5

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #5

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #4

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #4

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #3

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY HYMN

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mt. Zion Carol #3

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #2

HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #2

PROMISE & INVITATION TO HYMN #1

A BLESSING: FOR BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS³

*SENDING HYMN

Mt. Zion Carol #1

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

References

¹Welcome to the New Year poem was shared for use on on the Sisters of Saint Martha of Antigonish website. Author unattributed. And accessed 12/18/23.

²The Call to Worship and New Year's Eve Prayer of Confession is adapted from the writings of Christine Sine (2012), and posted on GodSpace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/prayers-for-the-journey-advent-prayers-for-the-week/>

³The blessing for beginnings and endings, is written by Kate Bowler in Blessings for The Lives We Actually Have.

Volunteers

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

Thank you to everyone who participated in picking your favorite Christmas Carols! We couldn't have done this service with you!

Thank you to Hayden McCarthy 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: Faye Heal, Nancy & Barry Schwartz, Sarah Shaffer

Tech Team: Jen Miller, Paul Ramsey, Joe Vacante

Liturgist: Charlie Hull