

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ  
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406  
Telephone: 717-755-6117  
E-mail: [office@mtzionucc.org](mailto:office@mtzionucc.org)  
Website: [www.mtzionucc.org](http://www.mtzionucc.org)

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

December 1, 2024

9:45 AM

## **Silent Night: But the News Shouts at Us**

*Silent Night: The Paradox*

First Sunday of Advent

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, 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, 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 & CONCERNS**

### **INVITATION INTO THE PARADOX**

**HYMN** (v. 1)

*Silent Night*

**ALL SING: Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin,  
Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace .**

**LIFE IN THE PARADOX**<sup>1</sup>

Deb & Jack Herlocker

### **UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY—CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 121 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*All Earth is Waiting*

**C: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!**

L: As we gather to praise Christ our King, I invite you to stand as comfortable to sing God's praise.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 277 NCH** (black hymnal, see below)

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

# All Earth is Waiting

Transl. Gerture Suppe

Alberto Taule

© 1988, United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press

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-eyes 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.

**\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: God, you invite us into the mystery of Your serene love.

**C: You say to us, "Be still and know that I am God."**

L: We sing, "Silent night,"

**C: But we confess that it is hard to be still and silent while being assaulted by the noise of this season. It's a paradox.**

L: Hush the holiday hullabaloo, we pray.

**C: Forgive us, so that in the stillness and silence we might hear again the message of the Messiah.**

*(Silence is held for personal reflection)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*An Advent Credo*

by Martin

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 (CEB)*

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 345 NCH (black hymnal, vs. 1-3—see next page)**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*



# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

\*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence,  
2. Mon - arch great, yet born of Ma - ry,  
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en  
4. At Christ's feet the six - winged ser - aphs,

4



and with fear and trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing  
as of old on earth Christ stood, Lord of all, in  
spreads its van - guard on the way, As the Light of  
cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es

8



earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in the  
hu - man ves - ture in the bod - y and the  
light de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less  
to the Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they

12



hand, Christ our God to earth de - scend -  
blood. Christ will give to all the faith -  
day, That the powers of hell may van -  
cry, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

16



ing, our full hom - age to de - mand  
ful bread of life for heaven - ly food.  
quish as the shad - ows clear a - way.  
ia, al - le - lu - ia, God most high!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Breath of Heaven*

by Grant & Eaton

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

TELLING GOD'S STORY<sup>2</sup>

INVITATION TO THE TABLE & 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 COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable, as together we pray...Christ our Savior,  
**C: in the silence we are waiting to receive your love come anew. This day we see the paradox before us. Darkness still grows--but the light is gathering. Bread has been broken--but justice is slipping through the cracks. Blood has been shed--but the moment is turning. The journey is lonely--but the angels stir. We hold our breath in anticipation of the Silent Night--but the word is now ready to speak. Lead us into Advent, fed by your holy meal, with the expectation that the headlines are being rewritten and that the shouts of your Good News will guide us. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn NO. 120 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

# There's a Voice in the Wilderness

J. Lewis Mulligan, 1925

H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938

♩ = 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.

**References**

<sup>1</sup>Life in the Paradox and Time of Confession were written by Deb Herlocker for our Advent series.

<sup>2</sup>Communion Liturgy and Post-Communion Prayer is adapted from the writings of Roddy Hamilton, as posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws> and accessed for use on 11/19/24.

Special thanks to our Advent Team:

Elaine Bevivino, Deb Herlocker, & Cindy Hogentogler

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

**Bearer of Light:** Jack Bicher

**Life in the Paradox:** Deb and Jack Herlocker

**Welcome Team Members—**Vanessa Bicher, Sarah Shaffer, Sara Eberly, & Ron Miles

**Liturgist—**Andrea Adams

**Tech Team—**George DeMers, Paul Ramsey, Joe Vacante

**Worship Choir**



