Mt. Zion United Church of Christ 1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406

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

December 8, 2024 9:45 AM

Holy Night: But why am I so tired?

Silent Night: The Paradox Second 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 PARADOX1

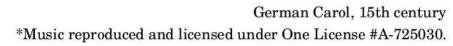
Braden Bicher & Scott McCracken

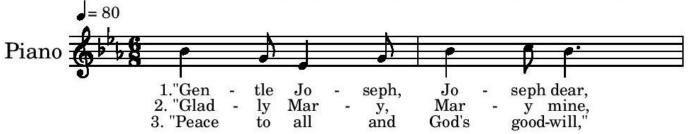
UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY—CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

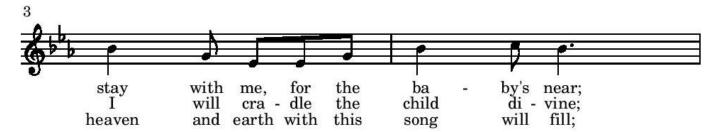
*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 105 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

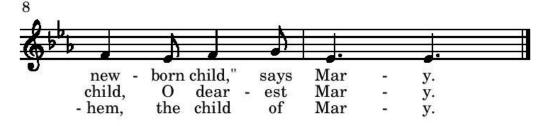
Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear











TIME OF CONFESSION¹

CALL TO CONFESSION PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God, you invite us into the mystery of Your serene love. Long ago you gifted the world with a holy night.

C: We sing about that "Holy night" without realizing that you continue to gift us with holy days and holy nights.

L: We confess that we are so very tired from the busy-ness of preparing for the holiday that we fail to remember it is a holy day.

C: You gift us with holy nights to rest, but our minds are restless so our bodies are denied a rejuvenating rest. Forgive us for failing to recognize the holy in this season--holy days and holy nights. Grant us rest that we might hear again the message of the Messiah.

(Silence is held for personal reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Emmanuel is Coming

by Price

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 1:18-24 (CEB) Luke 2:1-5 (CEB)

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 116 NCH (black hymnal, vs. 1, 3, 4—see next page)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Thomas Helmore *Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030. = 80 Piano E 1. O 2. O come, O come Em man el, and u come, O Wis - dom from on high, and 3. O come, O come, O A do nai, who 4. O come, O shoot of Jes se, free your come, O Key of come, O Day-spring, 5. O Da vid. come, and 6. O cheer come and our Is mourns in lone - ly ran-som cap-tive that ra el or - der all things far nigh; To the path of and us from its peak a Si and came to all on nai high, depths of hell your own from Sa-tan's tyr an ny, From home; safe the path to o - pen wide your heaven ly Make spir-its by your ad vent here; Love stir with-in the Refrain ile til the Child of God Re here, ap - pear. ex un knowl edge help in that show, and us way to go. pro - claimed in maj - es sin - gle law ty and awe. give them vic-tory save, and peo - ple o'er the grave. end - less hell's de-struc-tion day, to close the way. womb of night, and death's own shad-ows put to flight. 14 - joice! Re - joice! E - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is -20

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
Maranatha

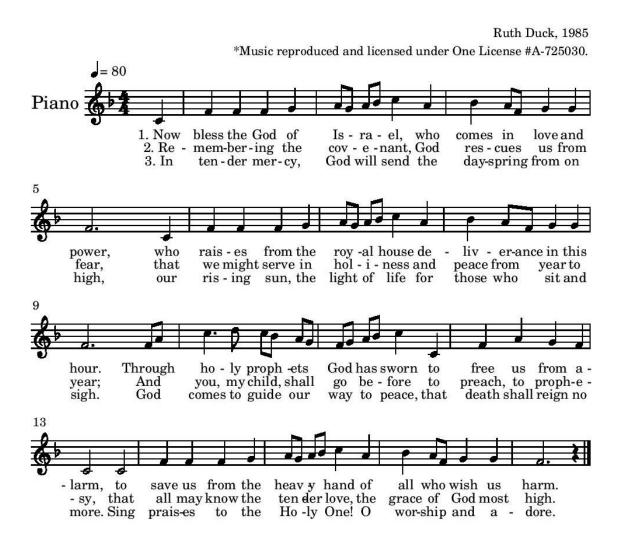
by Chiusano

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Sending Hymn NO. 110 NCH** (black hymnal, see below)

Now Bless the God of Israel

Now Bless the God of Israel



*BENEDICTION

L: In the silence and the shouts,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

L: In holy contentment and the exhaustion of faith,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

L: In the calm and eager anticipation,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

L: In the shine of hope and the weary sighs,

C: come, Lord Jesus.

POSTLUDE O Come, O Come arr. Schram

References

¹ Life in the Paradox and Time of Confession was written by Deb Herlocker for our Advent series.

Special thanks to our Advent Team!!!

Elaine Bevivino, Deb Herlocker, & Cindy Hogentogler

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

We also give thanks for the nativity scene at the front of the church. Longtime Mt. Zion member, Dick Koch, built the right side, minus the dome about 40 years ago. Then a bit later... as the inn keeper was more "prosperous," he built the left side. He added the "dome" 15 years ago, and his son Karl reworked the lighting before donating to the church after Dick's passing last winter.

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

Bearer of Light: Nova Ramsey

<u>Life in the Paradox:</u> Braden Bicher & Scott McCracken <u>Welcome Team Members—</u> Faye Heal & Barb Stebbins

<u>Liturgist</u>— Jen Miller

Tech Team—Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, John Schriver

<u>Worship Choir</u>—Andrea Adams, Tom Bair, Brenda Beyer, Braden Bicher, Debbie Butcher Barb Neff, Lana Fritz, Carol Hartman, Norma Hull, & Jen Miller