

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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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

German Carol, 15th century

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$\text{♩} = 80$

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.

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

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. O come, O come Em - man - u - el, and
2. O 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
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and
6. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our

5
Pno.

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
came to all on Si - nai high, and from its peak a
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to
spir - its by your ad - vent here; Love stir with-in the

9
Pno. *Refrain*

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear. Re -
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.
womb of night, and death's own shad - ows put to flight.

14
Pno.

- joice! Re - joice! E - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra -

20
Pno.

- el!

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

Ruth Duck, 1985

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a piano dynamic marking and a tempo of quarter note = 80. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet eighth notes. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains three numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the piece with a double bar line.

1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and
2. Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
3. In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day - spring from on

5
power, who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - er - ance in this
fear, that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to
high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and

9
hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a -
year; And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e -
sigh. God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no

13
- larm, to save us from the heav y hand of all who wish us harm.
- sy, that all may know the ten der love, the grace of God most high.
more. Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore.

***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

Life in the Paradox: Braden Bicher & Scott McCracken

Welcome Team Members—Faye Heal & Barb Stebbins

Liturgist— Jen Miller

Tech Team—Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, John Schriver

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