

**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, Associate Pastor  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator  
Mrs. Amy Peck, Choir Director

December 24, 2024

10:00 PM

### **CHRISTMAS EVE: The Not So Silent Night**

*Christmas Eve is a joyous time for all who open their hearts and minds to our loving Creator. Let us allow the true meaning of Christmas to stir up love within us. During the service today, we will be serving communion. Please know that all are invited to participate in Holy Communion.*

*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 of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the red & black hymnals.*

#### **GATHERING MUSIC**

*Christmas Piano Selections*

played by Travis Pinci

#### **CHRISTMAS GREETING**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **A CHRISTMAS WELCOME: WAITING AT THE CUSP OF MIDNIGHT<sup>1</sup>**

#### **ENTERING THE MYSTERY<sup>2</sup>**

P: --Soon

L: The Christmas story of hope and mystery, anticipation, preparation,  
a kingdom of this world and the next,

P: and a king appearing when we least expect...as once they did in Eden,

L: and a people, searching for a Savior and walking past the stable.

**C: Open eyes and hearts, that this might be the night where hope greets the weary world.**

HYMN NO. 117 (black hymnal, see below, vs. 1-2, 6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Thomas Helmore

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

♩ = 80

Piano 

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 Refrain

Pno. 

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!

## CALL TO WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS<sup>3</sup>

P: We waited in silence.

**C: And imagined a savior.**

L: Weary, we imagined holy power.

**C: One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

P: We calmed ourselves with the image of a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

**C: We got the noisy chaos of a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

L: We imagined the work done for us, a bright pathway to peace through the destruction of our enemies.

**C: We receive a baby who enters the darkness and will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

P: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

**C: Praise to be to God, who challenges our expectations in ways that open the door of hope!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by Mike Gibbs)

### WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF GOD'S HOPE

P: As we dwell in the dark of night, with questions in our heart we welcome the lights of hope that have guided us to this moment.

L: Emmanuel, God-with-us, Interrupt the silence and open our eyes to the wonder of this night, that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

**C: Jesus may your light shine!**

*(First advent candle is lit.)*

P: Emmanuel, God-with-us, Interrupt this holy moment and soften our hearts to the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you, and have the way prepared in us for your coming.

**C: Jesus may your light shine!**

*(Second advent candle is lit.)*

L: Emmanuel, God-with-us, Interrupt our calm, and open our minds to truly listen to all who speak and sing this evening, that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

**C: Jesus may your light shine!**

*(Third advent candle is lit.)*

P: Emmanuel, God-with-us, Interrupt the brightness of this moment and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

**C: Jesus may your light shine!**

*(Fourth advent candle is lit.)*

L: Emmanuel, God-with-us, With eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt our expectations of this silent night to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

**C: Jesus may your light shine!**

*(Christ candle is lit.)*

P: The waiting is over, and still not yet begun. But this night--Jesus' interrupts our expectations and greets us with God's light! I invite you to stand as comfortable as we all come and adore him!

**\*CAROL NO. 112** (red hymnal, see next page)

*O Come All Ye Faithful*



# O Come, All Ye Faithful (Traditional)

Tr. Frederick Oakley, 1841

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


♩ = 80

Piano



1. O come all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -  
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul -  
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py

5



- um - phant! O come ye O come ye to Beth - le -  
- ta - tion, sing all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a -  
mor - ning Je - sus to thee be all glo - ry

9



- hem! Come and be - hold Him, born the King of  
- bove: "Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the  
giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap -

13



an - gels; O come let us a - dore Him, O come let us a -  
high - est;  
- pear - ing;

17



- dore Him, O come let us a - dore Him Christ the

21



Lord!

**\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>5</sup>

**C: God of stable, stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life: open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world; forgive our obsession with property and possessions; forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song in our hearts, and in our lives. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

**\*ACT OF PRAISE** (see below)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## Angels We Have Heard on High (Traditional)

*Piano*  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing  
2. Shep - herds why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the

4  
o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their  
strains pro - long? What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your  
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the

8  
joy - ous strains Glo -  
heav'n - ly song?  
new - born

12  
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo -

16  
ri - a, in ex - cel - sis

20  
De - o.

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

African American Spiritual

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

**Piano** ♩ = 80

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 80. The score includes a piano introduction and three verses of lyrics.

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hill and  
ev - ery where. Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is  
born!  
1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er  
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when the  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the  
si - lent flocks by night, Be - hold through-out the  
lo! a - bove the earth rang out the an - gel  
hum - ble Christ was born, and God sent us sal -  
heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
- va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

## OFFERING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Still, Still, Still*

Traditional

PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>6</sup>

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION<sup>7</sup>

*The communion liturgy will be sung to the tune of “What Child is This.” Please join in this liturgy as we prepare for the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

L: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises. We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

**ALL SING: Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify! Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: God breathed in us the breath of life. God gave the gift of Eden. We turned away and sin was born; We sought for greener gardens.

**ALL SING: Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify! Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: God called to us from age to age through messengers and prophets. When we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

**ALL SING: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: O Holy God of power and might! Hosanna in excelsis! Blessed be the one who in your name comes! Hosanna in the highest!

**ALL SING: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us! He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.

**ALL SING: Nails, spear shall pierce Him through! The Cross be borne for me for you. Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: And on the night he was betrayed, Christ took the bread and broke it. Thanking God, he shared this gift. “Remember, when you eat it!”

**ALL SING: Nails, spear shall pierce Him through! The Cross be borne for me for you. Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: He took the cup and raised it up. “My life I pour out for you. From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew.”

**ALL SING: Nails, spear shall pierce Him through! The Cross be borne for me for you. Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

L: Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them. Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

**ALL SING: Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby: Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**



L: As we raise the song on high and rejoice in Christ birth, together let us share Christ'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.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS (all cups contain grape juice)

*Today we are communing by intinction which is a fancy church word for dipping your bread into the grape juice cup. If you have a gluten allergy please let us know and we can give you elements uncontaminated by gluten. If you are uncomfortable coming forward and would like communion brought to you in your seat, also have a welcome team member or someone gathered here with you let me know and we will bring communion to you at the end.*

*During the sharing of the elements, we will be singing various Christmas Carols. Words for the songs will be listed on the screens. The hymnal numbers are also listed below if you'd prefer to use a hymnal.*

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, #107 (red hymnal)*

*Away in a Manger, #109 (red hymnal)*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem, #102 (red hymnal)*

*The First Noel, #118 (red hymnal)*

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing, #108 (red hymnal)*

*What Child is This, #148 (black hymnal)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (to the tune of "What Child is This")

L: Thank God for Holy Mystery; Body of Christ; the gift of life! As we depart, let us take heart: God's light will lead us always!

**ALL SING: Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby: Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**SOPRANO SOLO** (sung by Debbie Butcher)

*O Holy Night*

by Adam

**WELCOMING CHRIST'S LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS<sup>8</sup>**

P: We were heavy with sorrow, but joy interrupted. We were deep in the night, but a star appeared. We were silent with sadness, but the heavens rang.

**C: And the splendor shone around them when the time had fully come.**

L: We were hardened by conflict, but love intervened. We were frightened by shadows, but light took them away. We were haunted by fears, but a child brought us hope.

**C: And she laid him in a manger when the time had fully come.**

P: We were dismal and defeated, but faith set us on fire. We were weary and complaining, but our hearts discovered praise. We were doubtful and confused, but a door to life was opened.

**C: And the guiding star went before them when the time had fully come.**

L: We were arrogant and angry, but his innocence disarmed us. We were cruel, crude, and clumsy, but his grace made all things new. We were selfish, narrow, greedy, but his joy we had to share.

**C: And they offered him their treasured gifts when the time had fully come.**

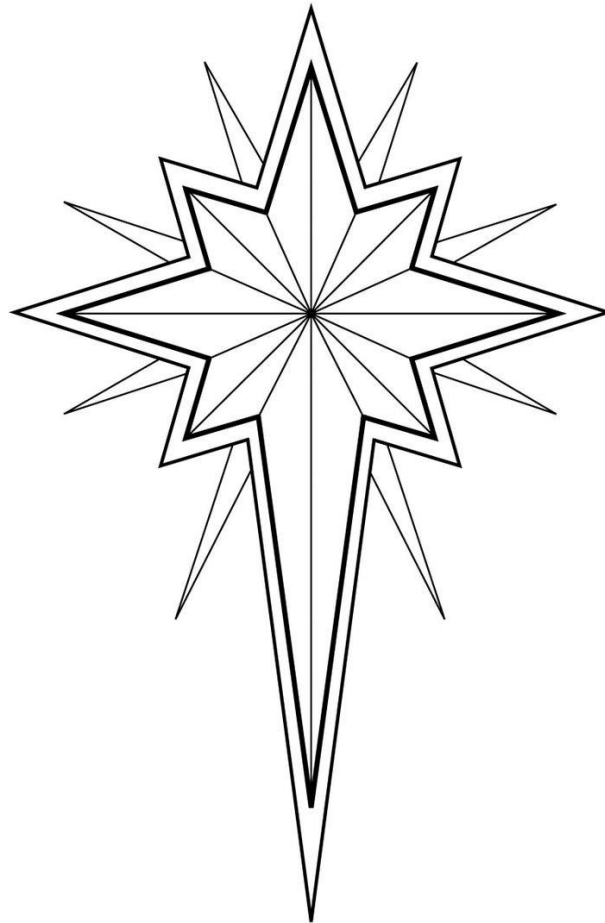
P: We were sheep who had lost their way, but the shepherd knew our names. We were strangers without a country, but our kingdom came to us. We were children far from home, but God sent his Son to guide.

**C: And the Word was flesh among us when the time had fully come.**

L: The time is now—Christ born in the stable brings us His light—and we share the light of His love. For the time has fully come.

CAROL (see next page)

*Silent Night, Holy Night*



# Silent Night

Franz Gruber, 1818

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

Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake,  
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star,

4



all is bright round yon vir - gin mo-ther and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from hea-ven a - far,  
love's pure light; ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face  
lend thy light, with the an - gels let us sing,

7



Ho - ly in - fant so ten-der and mild, sleep in heav - en-ly  
heav - enly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Sav - ior is  
with the dawn of re - dee - ming grace, Je - sus Lord at thy  
Al - le - lu - ia to our King; Christ the Sav - ior is

10



peace, sleep in heav - en-ly peace.  
born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.  
birth, Je - sus Lord at thy birth.  
born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

**\*CLOSING LITANY: IN THE QUIET OF THE NIGHT**

P: In the quiet of the night--

L: God's truth wasn't silent;

**ALL: The angels sang loudly Emmanuel's here!**

P: In the holiness of the night—

L: God's hope wasn't weary;

**ALL: The heaven's danced with delight God's love has arrived!**

P: In the calm of the night—

L: God's love wasn't distracted;

**ALL: The unexpected was planned God's hope in a baby!**

P: In the bright of the night—

L: God's mission faced the darkness;

**ALL: The calling was clear: Come into the darkness and share my light!**

**ALL: We are called to act loudly. We are called to care though weary. We are called to share with all a personal story of Christmas, of how God's love changed the world.**

P: In the quiet of this night

L: God's song shattered the silence.

**ALL: And with joy we join in praise!**

*Individual lights are extinguished as light returns to the Sanctuary.*

**SENDING HYMN NO. 120** (red hymnal, see next page)

*Joy to the World*



# Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

George Handel

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


$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano




1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let  
2. Joy to the earth! The Sa - vior reigns; Let  
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and

5



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - ry  
men their songs em - ploy! While fie - lds and  
makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries

9




heart pre - pare Him room and heav'n and na - ture  
floods, rocks, hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing  
of his right - eous ness and won - ders of His

13



sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and hea - v'n and  
joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat re -  
love, and won - ders of His love, and won - ders and

17



hea - v'n and na - ture sing.  
- peat the sound - ing joy.  
won - ders of His love.

## **\*DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace and joy.

P: Share the Good News

L: Christ has shattered God's silence

L & P: God is with us and life will never be the same!

**C: Thanks be to God. We will and share the news!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Carol of the Bells*

Traditional

## **References**

<sup>1</sup>A Christmas Welcome at the Cusp of Midnight was written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Listening to the Stones. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/> and accessed for use 12/18/24.

<sup>2</sup>Entering the Mystery was written and shared on <https://www.faithandworship.com/#gsc.tab=0> and accessed for use on 12/18/24.

<sup>3</sup>The Call to Worship is edited from the writings of Tim Graves, and posted on his blog LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/> and accessed for use 12/18/24.

<sup>4</sup>The Litany for Candle Lighting is written by Peter L. Haynes. Posted in the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. <http://rockhay.tripod.com/worship/>.

<sup>5</sup>The Prayer of Confession is from Christmas Carol Service, <http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Chaplaincy/Events/2008-10/CarolService2009/OrderOfService2009.pdf> and accessed for use 12/18/24.

<sup>6</sup>The Offertory Prayer is written by the Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church and accessed at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-home-for-christmas/christmas-eve-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/christmas-eve-year-c-offertory-prayers> on 12/12/23.

<sup>7</sup>A Christmas Confession is written by Kenneth I. Morse, from "In Straw and Story," p.80, Brethren Press, copyright 1977. Posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. <http://rockhay.tripod.com/>

<sup>8</sup>In the Quiet of the Night is written by written by Lisa Frenz, in An Order of Worship for Christmas Eve, and posted on the Mount Carmel Lutheran Church website. Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

# Merry Christmas to All!

**Welcome Team & Communion Servers:** Jodi Bender, Deb & Terry Barnes

**Liturgist:** Deb Herlocker

**Lector:** Freddie Northridge

**Communion Assistant:** Rev. Jason Northridge

**Tech Team:** Dave Firestone & Jack Herlocker

Thank you to Debbie Butcher & Mike Gibbs for enhancing today's worship with their talents. Thank you to the vocal quartet for their meaningful musical contribution to this evening. The quartet is made up of: Debbie Butcher, Brenda Beyer, Mike Gibbs, & Braden Bicher.

Thank you to Patsy & Lee Brown, of Brown's Tree Farm, for donating our Christmas tree and 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 Jim Beyer for creating the beautiful art for our bulletin cover!

If you commune, please complete a communion card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.

During the candle lighting ceremony, please hold lighted candles vertical, and **tip the unlighted** candle to the lighted one.

**Please pick up your 2025 offering envelopes** if you haven't already done so. They are on the table in the west narthex. All contributions must be received at the church on or before December 29th, 2024 in order to get credited to your 2024 giving statements.

**Mt. Zion is Streaming!** This service will be posted on the Mt. Zion website at: <http://www.mtzionucc.org/services-online.html>, with both a live feed (during the actual service) and a version you can watch later. 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.

