

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

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

January 12, 2025

9:45 AM

Epiphany Sunday

Star Word Sunday

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

PRELUDE

We Three Kings with Fur Elise

arr. Labenske

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148 & Isaiah 61:10-62:3)

L: We are seekers—just like the Magi.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: We are looking for hope, peace, joy, love and so much more that Christ brings.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: We long for the abundant life God promises.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May this star word be one of encouragement.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May this word guide our intentions in the days to come.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May we pay attention to where God is present.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May we embrace the gifts of God's presence with thoughtfulness and praise.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 164 (black hymnal, see below)

Arise Your Light is Come

Arise, Your Light is Come

Ruth Duck

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


$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. A - rise your light is come! The Spir - it's call o -
2. A - rise your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on
3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row
4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in


5



- bey;
door;
born,
song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which
Pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good
Bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's

8



shines on you to - day!
tid - ings to the poor.
com - fort those who mourn.
power will make us strong.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Creative God,

C: you share with us words of hope, words of Good News. But sometimes we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we are unable to share, because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them.

In the multitude of ways we can and have subverted your message of freedom and healing, in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening, we have left the path of true wisdom and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. As such this day you are forgiven. We all are forgiven. We live as loved, forgiven and free people through the grace of God!

C: Hallelujah! Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 2237 FWS (vs. 1 & 2)

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

ALL SING: As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame. So the church is meant for mission giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs but to build a bridge of care. We join hands across the nations finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers, we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers. We are vessels made of clay By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 60:1-6 (CEB)
Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 (CEB)*

SERMON

As With Gladness Those of Old

William C. Dix, 1861

Conrad Kocher, 1838

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

♩ = 80

Piano

1. As with glad-ness	those of old	did the guid-ing
2. As with joy - ful	steps they sped	to that low - ly
3. As they of - fered	gifts most rare	at that man-ger
4. Ho - ly Je - sus,	ev - ery day	keep us in the

4

star be - hold;	As with joy they	hailed its light,
man - ger bed,	There to bend the	knee be - fore
plain and bare,	So may we with	ho - ly joy,
nar - row way;	And when mor - tal	things are past,

7

lead - ing on - ward,	beam-ing bright;	So, true Morn - ing
One whom heaven and	earth a - dore;	So may we with
pure and free from	sin's al - loy,	All our cost - liest
bring our ran - somed	souls at last	Where they need no

10

Star, may we	ev - er - more your	splen-dor see.
will - ing feet	ev - er seek your	mer - cy seat.
trea - sures bring,	Christ, to you from	whom they spring.
star to guide,	where no clouds your	glo - ry hide.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE³

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

As With Gladness

arr. Schram

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION⁴

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

REMEMBERING THE STORY

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 SHARE THE MEAL

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: God of open horizons and open roads,

C: like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have seen us, claimed us, and called us beloved.

Today we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives.

So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that might help us hear you more clearly. May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi.

And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us. Together we pray, with joy in our hearts. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 160 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

Jesus the Light of the World

BENEDICTION

Jesus, the Light of the World

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton

*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the
2. Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the
3. Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the
4. Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the

7

world; Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the
world; Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the
world; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the
world; Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the

14 *Refrain*

light of the world. We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light,
light of the world.
light of the world.
light of the world.

21

come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by

27

day and by night, Je-sus the light of the world.

POSTLUDE

O Morning Star

by Nicolai

References

¹The Call to Worship is by Courtney Mills Jones Willis, 2020 Permission is granted for home and congregational use.

²The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/> and accessed for use 1/7/25.

³The Prayers of the People are adapted from prayers written by written Glenn Mitchell, and posted on MINemergent's Daily Communique. Accessed for use 1/7/25.

⁴Communion Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org, accessed on 1/2/24

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

Welcome Team Members—Faye Heal, Lana Fritz, Nancy & Barry Schwartz

Liturgist— Jen Miller

Tech Team—George DeMers Jack Herlocker, & Paul Ramsey

