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 19, 2025 9:45 AM

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Guess Who?: Investigating Key Figures of the Bible Mt. Zion Bible Detectives: Uncovering the Wonders and Mysteries of the Faith

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

PRELUDEBeautiful Star of Bethlehem

by Boyce

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: We gather: a community of faith in God's subversive world.

C: We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light, to remember that love will always be more powerful than death, and to trust that peace will always be stronger than violence.

L: We gather, people of faith in the light of God's world.

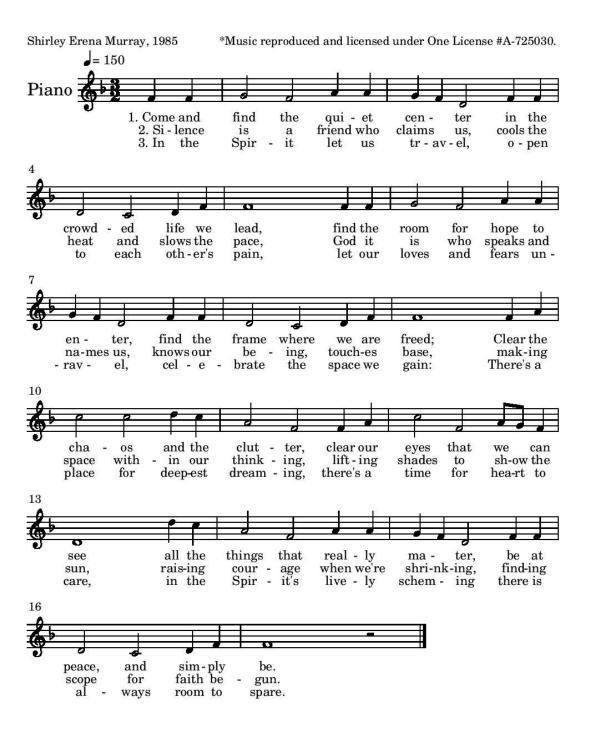
C: Dear Jesus, as You led the Magi to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of faith.

Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 2128 (FWS, see below)

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and Find the Quiet Center



*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: We thank you God that you know what it is to be human, Fragile and vulnerable, searching for ways to stay alive in dangerous and complicated times. We thank you that you know the struggles and temptations of living in darkness. And we thank you that you give light to the world.

C: We bring gratitude for your light, while we linger in the darkness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: We confess that sometimes it's easier to stay in the shadows, where things can stay hidden, where people can't see our cracks and flaws.

C: Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love.

L: We confess that we have at times brought darkness into the world by our anger, our selfishness, our violence.

C: Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love.

L: We confess that we are sometimes skeptical of light and find it easier to trust its absence.

C: Cast your light on our darkness and forgive us, God of love.

L: And in this silence, bring the confessions that are on your heart and mind into the light of God's love.

(Time of silence held for personal reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: We know in faith that God restores and renews, and that our sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

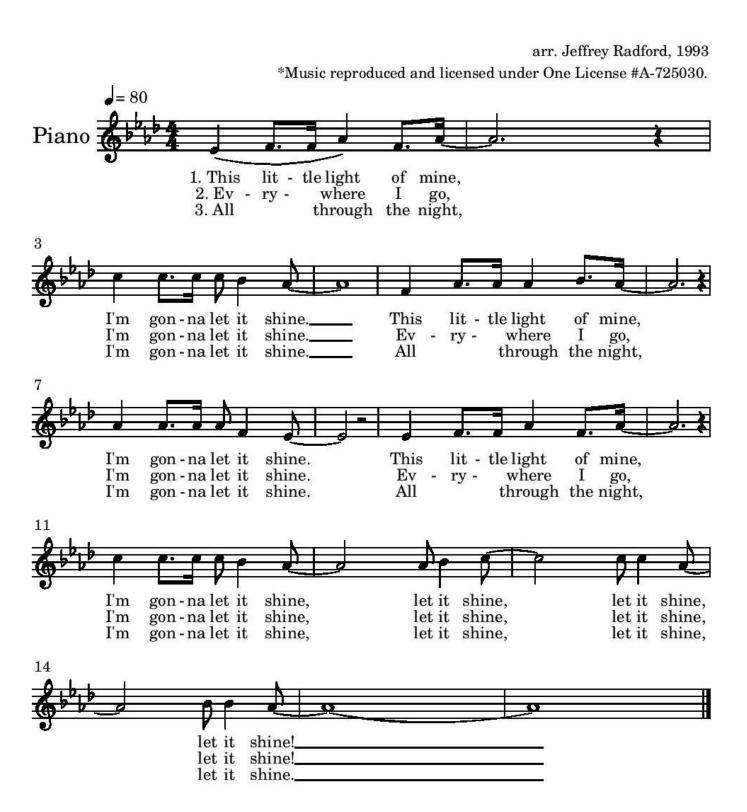
WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

The Shepherd Psalm

by Carter

GUESS WHO SCRIPTURE READING SERMON

This Little Light of Mine



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE³ AND 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

See Amid the Winter Snow

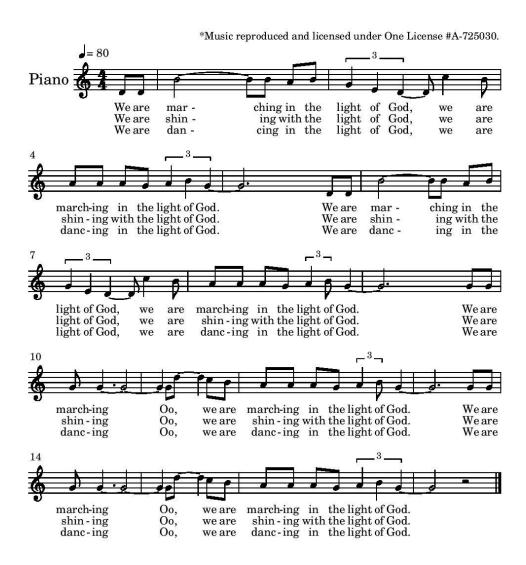
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

arr. Lopez

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 526 NCH (black hymnal, see below)

We Are Marching

We Are Marching in the Light of God (Alternate Verses)



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 Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space]. http://holdthisspace.org.au/ and accessed for use 1/7/25.

³The Prayers of the people are adapted from prayers written by Thomas Shuman, and posted on his excellent Lectionary Liturgies website as accessed for use 1/7/25.

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

<u>Welcome Team Members</u>—Tori Everhart, Sarah Shaffer, Nancy & Jesse Smith <u>Liturgist</u>— Stella Fletcher

Tech Team—Jack Herlocker, John Kollasch