

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

January 26, 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

PRELUDE

Beautiful 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

Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

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♩ = 150

Piano 

1. Come and find the quiet center in the
 2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the
 3. In the Spirit let us travel, open

4 

crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to
 heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and
 to each other's pain, let our loves and fears un-

7 

enter, find the frame where we are freed; Clear the
 names us, knows our being, touches base, mak-ing
 - ravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a

10 

chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can
 space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to sh-ow the
 place for deepest dream - ing, there's a time for heart to

13 

see all the things that real - ly ma - ter, be at
 sun, rais-ing cour - age when we're shri-nk-ing, find-ing
 care, in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is

16 

peace, and simply be.
 scope for faith be - gun.
 al - ways room to spare.

*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

arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

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Piano 

1. This lit - tle light of mine,
 2. Ev - ry - where I go,
 3. All through the night,

3 

I'm gon - na let it shine. _____ This lit - tle light of mine,
 I'm gon - na let it shine. _____ Ev - ry - where I go,
 I'm gon - na let it shine. _____ All through the night,

7 

I'm gon - na let it shine. _____ This lit - tle light of mine,
 I'm gon - na let it shine. _____ Ev - ry - where I go,
 I'm gon - na let it shine. _____ All through the night,

11 

I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
 I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
 I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,

14 

let it shine! _____
 let it shine! _____
 let it shine. _____

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

arr. Lopez

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

We Are Marching

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

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are
We are shin - ing with the light of God, we are
We are dan - cing in the light of God, we are

4
march-ing in the light of God. We are mar - ching in the
shin - ing with the light of God. We are shin - ing with the
danc-ing in the light of God. We are danc - ing in the

7
light of God, we are march-ing in the light of God. We are
light of God, we are shin - ing with the light of God. We are
light of God, we are danc-ing in the light of God. We are

10
march-ing Oo, we are march-ing in the light of God. We are
shin - ing Oo, we are shin - ing with the light of God. We are
danc-ing Oo, we are danc-ing in the light of God. We are

14
march-ing Oo, we are march-ing in the light of God.
shin - ing Oo, we are shin - ing with the light of God.
danc-ing Oo, we are danc-ing in the light of God.

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!

Welcome Team Members—Vanessa Bicher, Jeff & Nancy Sleeper

Liturgist— Connie Wolfe

Tech Team—John Kollasch, Ron Miles, Joe Vacante