

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

January 3, 2021 10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

Welcome and Announcements

The Altar Flowers are In memory of Durwood and Nellie Foor by Virginia and Marvin Meyers.
The Chancel Flowers are in memory of E. O. and Ina Davis by the Baker Family.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Julie Hills, Lector

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Nolan Wig, Acolyte

PRELUDE

"A Little Child on Earth Has Been Born"

Noel Rawsthorne

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Isaiah 58:8

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

GATHERING SONG "My Life is in You" (bulletin page 5)

OPENING PRAYER (written by Rev. Ian Elston)

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, so often we take you for granted. We take for granted that you will answer our prayers, that you will heal us and make us whole. We take for granted that you love us.
Forgive us for not appreciating your grace and presence in our lives. Help us to be more thankful.
Give us faith to see you in everything and everyone around us, so that we may be truly grateful.
Hear us now as we come to you in silence...**

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers, our friends and neighbors, as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbor as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and petitions on behalf of the church and the world. Today we hold in prayer.... I invite you to name other joys and concerns in the space provided in the prayer or in chat so we can all offer our prayers. Please feel free during the week to let me know if there are others you would like added to the prayer list. Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"
Allen Morrill, Trumpet

J. S. Bach

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

John 1:1-9 New International Version

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. **9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Matthew 11:2-6 New International Version

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" ⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

SERMON

Light of the World

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Thank you to all who supported this church so generously in the past year and also to those who contributed to the Christmas Offering. As we begin the Year of our Lord 2021, let us renew our commitment to the work of the church that this may indeed be a happy new year.

The Doxology

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (based on a liturgy by Rev. Maren Tirabassi)

Invitation

COMMUNION HYMN "This is a Day of New Beginnings" (verses 1, 2 & 5)
(bulletin page 6)

Words of Remembering

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Leader: Let us share the bread.

Unison: It is the gift that reminds us of our gifts.

Leader: Let us drink deeply.

Unison: So that we may always travel on.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (based on Howard Thurman's 'The Work of Christmas')

God, we thank you that when the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack the story away, this very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, rebuild the nations, bring peace among all, and make a heart-music so that everyone can dance. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark, the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild
 God and sinners reconciled.
 Joyful all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angelic host proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem”.
 Hark, the Herald Angels sing,
 Glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
 Christ, the Everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold Him come
 To the earth from heaven’s home.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 Hail the incarnate Deity,
 Please as man with men to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark, the Herald Angels sing,
 Glory to the newborn King!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He rings,
 Risen with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth,
 Born to give them second birth,
 Hark, the Herald Angels sing,
 Glory to the Newborn King!

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”

Noel Rawsthorne

Our worship is ended and our service begins.

MEDITATION: Sara Beth Fentress

I pray that, as followers of Christ, we will be like a full moon, having no light of our own, but shining brightly in a darkened world. We give testimony to the light and life He brings. Our main job during our vapor of time on earth is to reflect the light of the Sun of Righteousness. The more time we spend with Him, the more we will be willing vessels for His light and life to flow through.

My Life Is in You, Lord

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My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in

you, Lord; my hope is in you, Lord; in

you, it's in you. My life is in you, Lord; my

strength is in you, Lord; my hope is in

Second time to Coda ⊕

you, Lord; in you, it's in you. I will

praise you with all of my life, _____ I will

praise you with all of my strength; _____ with

all of my life, with all of my strength.

D.S. al Coda

All of my hope is in you. _____ My

FAITH

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This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 5 In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987