

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Julie Hills, Lector

If you are worshipping from home, you may want to take a few minutes to prepare communion elements. They can be a bite of anything you have and a sip of whatever is handy, a reflection of life lived in God's loving care.

Just a reminder that our semi-annual congregational meeting will immediately follow this worship service to approve the budget for next year and elect elders. We will remain in the sanctuary. Those on line are urged to stay with us and vote by chat. We need 50 members to constitute a quorum according to our by-laws.

The altar flowers are placed in memory of our parents and brothers by Gayle and Bruce Wolff.

Special music is provided by Zach Morgan, a student of Lori Seinar-Roknick.

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

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

THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Kellen Ritzert, Acolyte

THE PRELUDE

"King in a Stable"

Richard Hamilton

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Luke 1:39-45 New International Version

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: You are welcome here.

People: God is welcome here.

Leader: You are welcome here.

People: We are welcome here.

Leader: Come and be here.

People: Come and be you.

Leader: Holy God, come among us and be You.

Lighting the "Home" Candle

OPENING HYMN "I Will Enter His Gates" (bulletin page 4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are not always welcoming, O God, and we do not always feel welcome. We have not celebrated one another as the good gifts we are. We have not cried together in the seasons when we have needed a good cry. We have not visited one another often enough to gasp in joy or sigh in pain. Forgive us, O God. Teach us again to create home for friends and strangers, loved ones and enemies. Welcome now our silent prayers, Gracious God....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC Mendelssohn "Song Without Words" E Major Op. 30, No. 3
Zach Morgan, Piano

SERMON *Come On In*

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Preparation

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Elements

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the self-satisfied away empty. In this feast at your table you have filled us with the word and the bread of life of your Son Jesus Christ. Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts and the homes of all. Fill us with his spirit of service and self-forgetting love, that through us, he may become near to people. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "O How Shall I Receive You" (bulletin page 5)

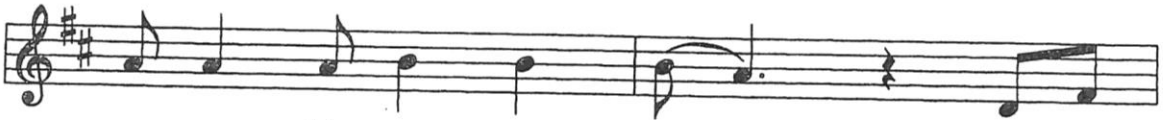
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CLOSING PRAYER

MEDITATION: James E. Faust - 20th century attorney, religious leader and politician
In addition to temples, surely another holy place on earth ought to be our homes. The feelings of holiness in my home prepared me for feelings of holiness in the temple.



I will en-ter his gates with thanks-giv-ing in my heart, I will



en - ter his courts with praise. I will



say, "This is the day that the Lord has made." I



will re - joice, for he has made me glad.

Refrain



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re - joice, for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad. I



will re - joice, for he has made me glad.

O How Shall I Receive You

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*Paul Gerhardt, 1653**Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.*

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;
 3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the finest and most beloved in Christian hymnody.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
 (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
 Melchior Teschner, 1615