

# ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

December 20, 2020

Fourth 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

Marion Krieder, Lector

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

Iris Wentling, Acolyte

THE PRELUDE

“Prince of Heaven” (CCLI 7095645)

Brooke and Scott Ligertwood, arr. by Tracey Craig McKibben

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Luke 2:8-15 New International Version Marion Krieder, Lector

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Marion Krieder

Leader: Field and forest,

**People: Glory to God!**

Leader: Sheep and sparrow,

**People: Glory to God!**

Leader; Rock and river,

**People: Glory to God!**

Leader: Let all creation

**People: Give glory to God!**

Lighting the Fields/Open Spaces Candle

Marion Krieder

OPENING HYMN      “Angels from the Realms of Glory” verses 1&2 (bulletin page 4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are longing for wide open spaces to breathe and to be amazed, but so often we do not look up to see them. So often we do not look up to see you. We miss the beauty of a drop of dew, of a single snowflake. We fail to tune in to the bird’s song. We forget to breathe deeply. Startle us, we pray. Wake us up, and our praises will echo across the open fields to your glory.**

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

“Away in A Manger”

Adult Chime Choir

John Enterline, Jodie Enterline, Susan Morrill, Leslie Gaul, Ruth Herrick, Linda Seeley,  
Bill Henry and Joan Wentling.

SERMON

*Light in the Darkness*

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.**

CLOSING HYMN “The First Noel” Verses 1, 2, & 6 (bulletin page 5)

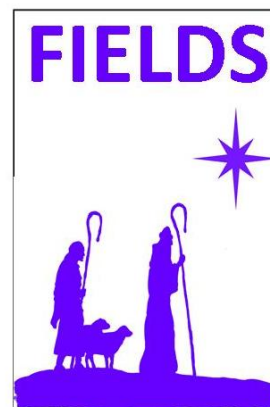
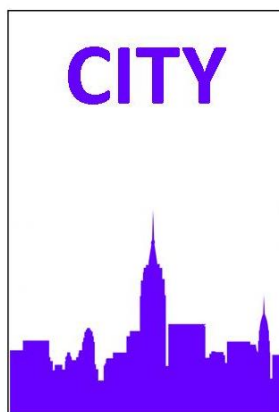
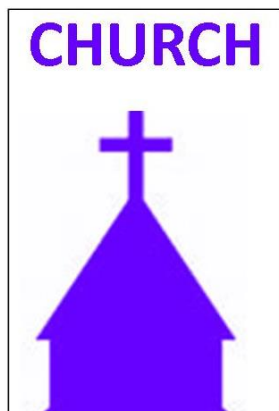
THE BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE “Carol of the Bells” arr. Mark Hayes, Trad. Ukrainian Bell Carol

MEDITATION: Walter Wangerin

*'Gloria, Gloria!' they cry, for their song embraces all that the Lord has begun this day: Glory to God in the highest of heavens! And peace to the people with whom he is pleased! And who are these people? With whom does the good Lord choose to take his pleasure? The shepherds. The plain and nameless - whose every name the Lord knows well. You. And me.*

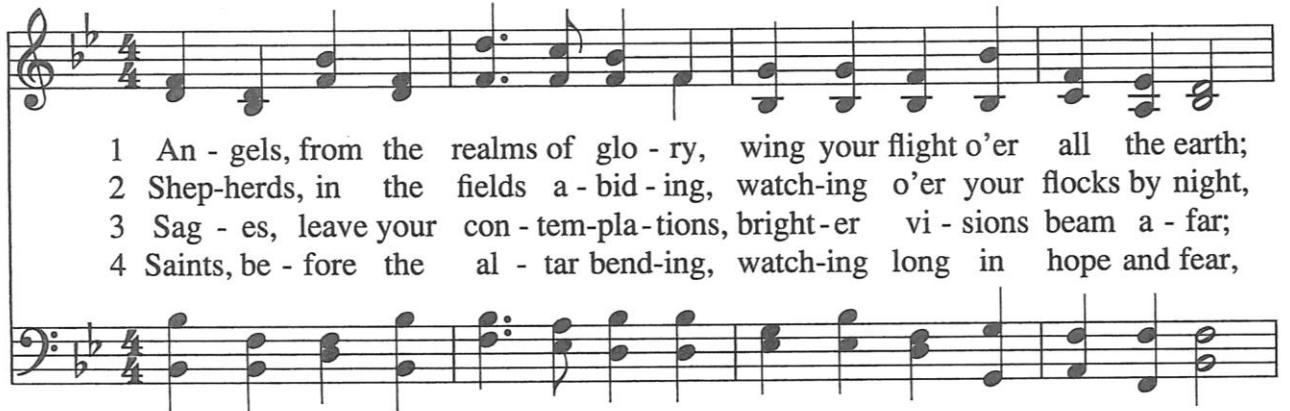


# Angels, from the Realms of Glory

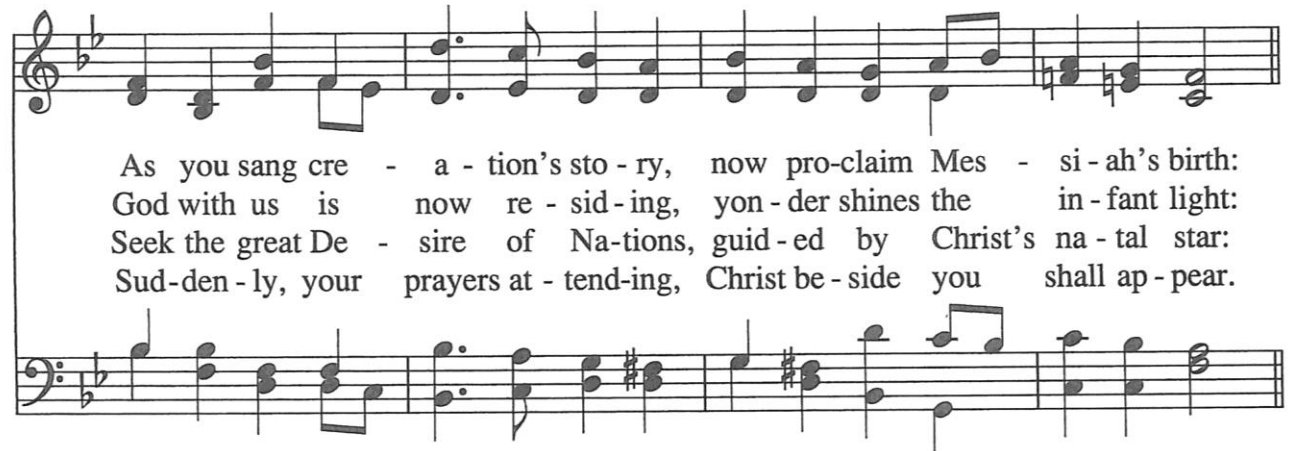
126

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11

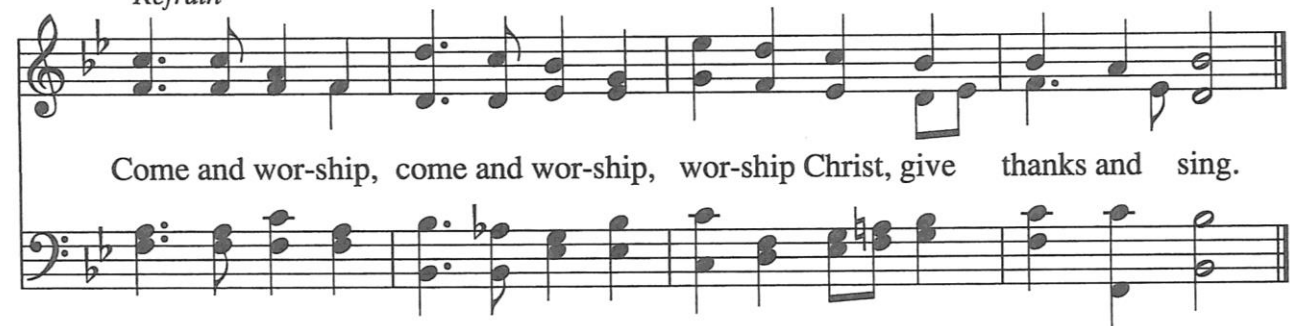


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
Seek the great De - sire of Na - tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:  
Sud - den - ly, your prayers at - tend - ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.

## Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

*James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper Sheffield Iris, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
Henry T. Smart, 1867

## The First Noel

229

1 The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full rev - erent -  
 6 Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their  
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great  
 came from coun - try far, to seek for a king was their in -  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and  
 ly up - on their knee, and of - fered there in his pres -  
 to our heav - en - ly Lord, who hath made heaven and earth of

*Refrain*

sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No -  
 stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 sence their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.  
 naught, and with his blood our life hath bought.

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.



## **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLING**

6:00 pm in Zion's Parking Lot  
(please park in the Medical Center parking lot)

Pastor June will open the event with prayer and Lori Seinar-Roknick will lead in the singing of Christmas Carols. The caroling will last approx. ½ hour and everyone will receive a gift of hot chocolate to take home. Please wear a mask.

The Christmas Eve Service will be live-streamed beginning at 7:00 on Facebook.