



## GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME!

We welcome Rev. Glenn Sadler to the pulpit, while Pastor June is on vacation. Thank you for being here Pastor Glenn!

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Cooper, Sr.

The Chancel Flowers are placed in memory of my loved ones, by Marion Krieder.

The Ministry of Service and Missions would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all who donated clothing for the Good Shepherd Center tag tree and to all who helped prepare, serve and deliver the meal on Monday, December 21. Your generosity has touched many lives in our community during this Christmas season.

Pastor June will be on vacation this week and Julie will be on vacation on Monday. The office will be closed tomorrow (Monday) and December 31 and January 1.

Finance and Consistory will meet on Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 and 7:00. The newly elected Consistory members should attend this meeting.

**ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor**  
**Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries**  
December 27, 2020 10:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Vic Colaiaco, 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

PRELUDE

"Christmas is Music"

Music by Percy Faith

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us, so that all creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: When they present Jesus at the temple,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to prayer,

People: **God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,

People: **God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

People: **God is there.**

GATHERING SONG "Arise, Your Light Has Come" (bulletin page 5)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus' Way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow. As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God's saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news. Forgive us, make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never ending love. Amen.**

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

GOOD NEWS OF ASSURANCE

A HYMN OF ASSURANCE “Who Would Think That What Was Needed” (bulletin page 6)

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary’s Little Boy Child”

Jester Hairston

### **Dwelling in the Word**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 62: 1-7

**62** Because I love Zion, I will not keep still.

Because my heart yearns for Jerusalem, I cannot remain silent.

I will not stop praying for her until her righteousness shines like the dawn,  
and her salvation blazes like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations will see your righteousness.

World leaders will be blinded by your glory.

And you will be given a new name by the LORD’s own mouth.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will hold you in his hand for all to see—a splendid crown in the hand of God.

<sup>4</sup>Never again will you be called “The Forsaken City”<sup>[a]</sup> or “The Desolate Land.”<sup>[b]</sup>

Your new name will be “The City of God’s Delight”<sup>[c]</sup> and “The Bride of God,”<sup>[d]</sup>  
for the LORD delights in you and will claim you as his bride.

<sup>5</sup>Your children will commit themselves to you, O Jerusalem,  
just as a young man commits himself to his bride.

Then God will rejoice over you as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride.

<sup>6</sup>O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls;  
they will pray day and night, continually.

Take no rest, all you who pray to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Give the LORD no rest until he completes his work,  
until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth.

## **Luke 2: 22-40**

Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD.” So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

*“Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.*

*I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people.*

*He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”*

Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four.<sup>[c]</sup> She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

When Jesus’ parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

SERMON

“What Are We Waiting For?”

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

God calls us to love and serve with body, mind, and spirit through loving our sisters and brothers. May our hearts be opened in compassion that we may give generously on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. You may drop off your offering in the office, mail your gift, use a bank bill pay service or use the “give” button on the website. Thank you for your continued support of Zion’s ministries.

The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above you heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” (bulletin page 7)

THE BENEDICTION

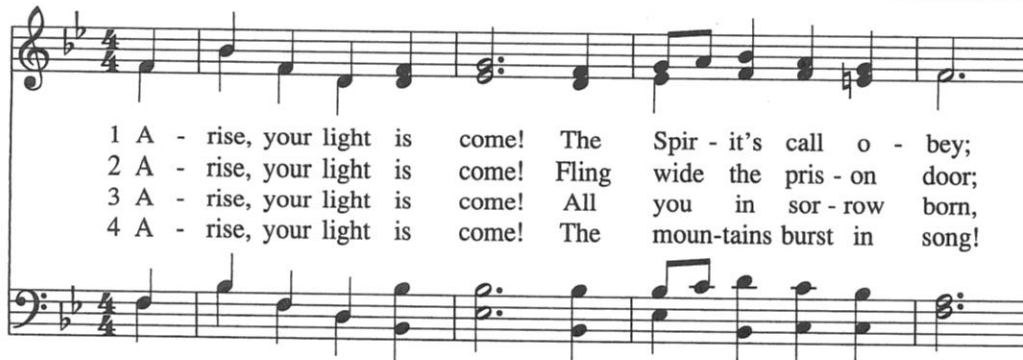
Closing Thoughts: We are waiting for many things this day. We are waiting for an end to health threats, an end to many uncertainties, isolation and division. Let us all pray that in the year before us, may we see Jesus, our Savior, in a new way. May we be united in Christ as we have never been in the past.

**Our worship is ended and our service begins.**

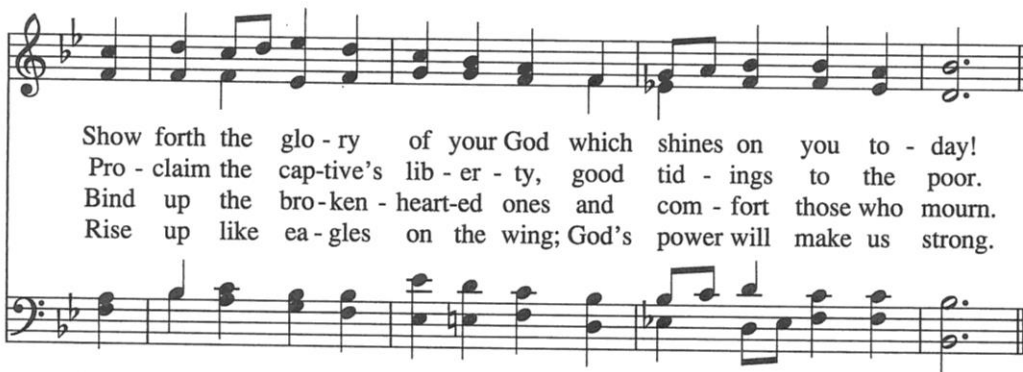
## EPIPHANY

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## Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*


1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.*

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.  
 William Walter, 1872

CHRISTMAS

# 153 Who Would Think That What Was Needed

Isa. 11:1-6; Matt. 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-14

John Bell and Graham Maule, 1990; alt.

1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth  
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag - es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an - gels sing;  
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,

might not be a plan or ar - my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?  
 such a place as none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly, help - less thing;  
 yet ex - per-ience ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im - prove.

Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a child should lead the way?  
 Sta - bled beasts and pass - ing strang-ers watch a ba - by laid in hay:  
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,

God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.  
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.  
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

*This song was written by The Iona Community in Scotland, which frequently develops hymn texts through a collaborative process, often employing traditional tunes from the British Isles such as "Scarlet Ribbons."*

Tune: SCARLET RIBBONS 8.7.8.7.D.  
 English traditional melody  
 Arr. John Bell and others, 1990

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

77

# Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,  
glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

*Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate.*

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
*Sicilian melody 18th century*

