

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

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit

December 5, 2021 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

Andrea Colaiaco, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we become quiet and prayerful 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 LIGHT

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~

THE PRELUDE

"Of The Father's Love Begotten"
(CCLI#7086719)

arr. by Faye Lopez

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP John 1:3b-5

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Andrea Colaiaco, Lector

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace.

People: Oh Lord, you are our Peace.

Leader: Lord, we pray you will guide our feet into the path of peace.

People: Oh Lord, you are our Peace.

Leader: Our hearts long for the Peace that your arrival will bring.

People: Oh Lord, you are our Peace.

Leader: God's promises are true. We await the birth of Christ, the Promised Child, the
Savior of the World. Peace is coming soon!

People: Oh Lord, you are our Peace.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

Song of Response "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we come from a world of darkness into Christ's world of light. We come from a world of weariness into your strength and hope. We come from a slumbering world. Strengthen our spirits by your Spirit and awaken our souls as we watch for the coming of Christ. Amen.

*A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

*THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

*A SONG OF ASSURANCE (#122)

**Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us, grant us your true liberty**

~please be seated~

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN "Now Bless the God of Israel" (bulletin page 6)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 (Angels from the Realms of Glory, verse 4)

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:68-79 New Revised Standard Version

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

CHOIR ANTHEM “Waiting, Watching, Wondering” Douglas E. Wagner

SERMON *Leave Your Troubles Behind*

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

Invitation

Offertory Music “Bethlehem Calls: An Advent Reflection” (CCLI#7144513) Brian Gibson

*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 Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, Holy God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the compassion you ask for your children. Give us the fruits of this holy communion--oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (bulletin page 7)

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING CHRIST’S LIGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE “Gabriel’s Message” arr. by Todd Beaney

MEDITATION: Desmond Tutu

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to all who rang the bell yesterday, December 4 for The Salvation Army.

Finance and Consistory will meet Wednesday, December 8.

The Knitting Group is making hats for Keystone and Greenville Elementary. If you would like to make them at home and donate them, please have them to the church by Dec. 7.

The semi-annual congregational meeting will be December 12. The budget will be presented for approval.

New members will be received on December 12. Please notify Pastor June if you are interested in joining Zion's Church.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Second Sunday of Advent is TODAY

Third Sunday of Advent is December 12

Fourth Sunday of Advent is December 19

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is December 24 at 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is December 19 and we will be doing something a little different. The entire congregation will be participating in an old-fashioned Christmas pageant. Don't worry, there are no lines to learn, no rehearsals and you don't have to leave your seat! The story will unfold through a combination of narration and Scripture readings, and also through the words and music of several familiar carols.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

Do you have a favorite Christmas carol or Christmas poem or short reading or story? Worship on Sunday, December 26 will be a Service of Readings and Carols. If you have a piece you would be willing to read (or have someone else read) or a special carol, please let Pastor June know so it can be a special time of worship filled with our favorite Christmas words and songs.

Now Bless the God of Israel

*Luke 1:68-79; Ps. 18:1-3; Isa. 9:2-7**Ruth Duck, 1985*

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
 2 Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
 3 In ten - der mer-cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
 that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
 our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph-ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
 And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,
 God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav-y hand of all who wish us harm.
 that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
 Sing prais-es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7**Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!