

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 26, 2021 A Service of Readings and Carols 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

Linda Allison, 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

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

THE PRELUDE "Anthem for Christmas" arr. by Bernadine W. Johnson

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Psalm 107:2-3

*Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Allison, Lector

Leader: Sing praises to God on high

People: for glorious are God's works.

Leader: Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

People: For to us a child is born,

Leader: to us a son is given;

People: and his name shall be called,

Leader: Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God,

Leader: Everlasting Father,

People: Prince of Peace.

Leader: Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

People: for great is the Holy One in our midst,

Leader: blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.

*OPENING CAROL “What Child is This?” (bulletin page 5)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of stable, stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life--open our eyes to your presence in our world. Forgive our obsession with property and possession. Forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song in our hearts and our lives. Hear now our silent prayers.

*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 “Trouble at the Inn” by Dina Donohue Pastor Glenn

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Friendly Beasts” Chancel Choir Members

READING “Lessons from Geese” by Robert McNeish (1972) Colleen Cooper
There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 1 Corinthians 12:25

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The prayer today is one that has been saved and reread many times. It was published and used in worship on July 13, 2008.

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 READING Luke 2:1-20 Lori Seinar-Roknick

CHOIR ANTHEM "Noel Festival" Lloyd Larson

READING "A Pattern for Living" by Helen Steiner Rice Carol Holler

CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (bulletin page 6)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Recipe for Christmas Joy

1/2 cup Hugs

4 tsp. Kisses

4 Cups Love

1 Cup Special Holiday Cheer

1/2 Cup Peace on Earth

3 tsp. Christmas Spirits

2 Cups Goodwill Toward All

1 Sprig of Mistletoe

1 Medium-Size Bag Of Christmas Snowflakes (The Regular Kind Won't Do !!)

Mix hugs, kisses, smiles, and love until consistent. Blend in holiday cheer, peace on earth, Christmas spirits and good will toward all. Use the mixture to fill, warm heart, where it can be stored for a lifetime. (it never goes bad!) Serve as desired under mistletoe, sprinkle liberally with special Christmas snowflakes. It is especially good when accompanied by Christmas Carols and family get-togethers. Serve to one and all.

Offertory Music "Love Came Down at Christmas" arr. by Nigel Williams

*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

*CLOSING HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" (bulletin page 7)

~please be seated~

READING "One Solitary Life" James Allen Francis

George Donner

TAKING CHRIST'S LIGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Go Tell It On The Mountain" arr. by Marianne Kim

Meditation: J. I. Packer

The Christmas spirit itself ought to be the mark of every Christian all year round.

Special thanks to those who participated in the service today by speaking, singing or submitting poems: Mary Douthett, Jodie Enterline, The Chancel Choir, Carol Holler, LaWanda Johnston, Lori Seinar-Roknick, Colleen Cooper, George Donner, Glenn Sadler and Arlene Sadler.

CHRISTMAS

What Child Is This

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William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.

This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century

*O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1751
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular
John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

CHRISTMAS

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol
 Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.
 St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
 Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.
 Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

A NEW YEAR'S PLAN

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I Am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing—your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything—all that I am.

--Mary Fairchild

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

This year, we rejoice at the opening of possibilities for gathering and worshipping together again. Still challenges remain for many of our pastoral leaders who continue to experience loss of income as congregations struggle with budget shortfall.

Please consider a gift for our active and retired UCC clergy who need our support by giving to the UCC Christmas Fund.

We will collect the UCC Christmas Fund offering on January 2. Please mark “UCC Christmas” on your envelope. You may also send your gift directly at www.christmasfund.org.

This is one of five offerings we participate in every year. The others are O.C.W.M., One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need and Strengthen the Church.

The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of my husband Ron on our anniversary, by Marion Krieder.

Ushers today are Lori Tofani, Parke Wentling, Vanessa Saylor and Linda Henry.

There is no Sunday School on January 2.

Church Happening will not be held today or next Sunday.

There is no Coffee Hour today or next Sunday.

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow and January 3.

Pastor Glenn will lead the service next Sunday.

Baptism will be held on January 16. Please contact Pastor June if interested.

Pastor June’s last Sunday will be January 16. A reception will follow in Anderson Lounge.