

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

# WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

260 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125

Phone: 724-588-6940

Church e-mail: [info@zionsucc.org](mailto:info@zionsucc.org)

Julie's cell: 724-815-3291

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

# PEACE





*Good  
Morning!  
Welcome to  
Zion's  
Reformed Church!*

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

We welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison to the pulpit. Thank you for being here!

The Altar Flowers are in memory of my parents, my brother and my husband Bruce, by Gayle Wolff.

Ushering today are Bill Henry, Linda Henry, Vanessa Saylor and Pat Seiple.

Serving Communion are Vikki Young, Karen Galus, Bob Fischer, John Enterline and Sherry Winner.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after Word for the Family for an activity.

Everyone is invited to the Anderson Lounge for refreshments after the congregational meeting.

The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held immediately after worship in the sanctuary.

Isaiah 11: 1-10

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:  
And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;  
And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:  
But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.  
And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.  
The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.  
And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.  
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.  
And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

## REMINDERS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER

If you took a tag for The Good Shepherd Center clients Christmas gifts, please return the items to the church by December 9.

Also, we have been asked to donate 50 cans of vegetables for the Christmas meals which are also due on December 9. Please place your donations under the tree or in the barrels.

We will be serving the Christmas Dinner December 19. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve, clean up and deliver. Also donations of rolls and Christmas cookies are needed. Please contact Andrea Colaiaco at 724-813-5748 if you can help or donate.

**Your gifts and contributions go a long way in providing the GSC clients and their children with a MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
**Thank you!**

---

## DECEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- \* Tuesday, December 6, Alzheimer's Care Group, 2:00.
- \* Saturday, December 10, bell ringing at Walmart for The Salvation Army. The schedule is on the bulletin board.
- \* Sunday, December 11, Messiah at First Presbyterian at 2:00.
- \* Wednesday, December 14, Consistory at 6:00.
- \* Sunday, December 18, Christmas Karaoke, after church.
- \* Monday, December 19, GSC dinner.
- \* Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm
- \* Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day Service, 10:30 am

The Chancel Choir will rehearse every Thursday at 6:00 and every Sunday morning at 9:30 until Christmas.

## ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison  
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

\*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

December 4, 2022 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 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 LIGHT Emilee Deeter, Acolyte

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

PRELUDE "See Amid the Winter's Snow" Anthony Giamanco

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Be still and know that I am God.

**People: God will be exalted among the nations.**

Leader: God will be exalted in the earth.

**People: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 345 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: When we offer God our confession, we join in the beautiful work of reconciliation.

**People: Trusting in God and God's grace, let us make our confession to God.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We care for ourselves while often forgetting others. Forgive us. Help us to repent. Make us whole. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: We know that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**All: Amen!**

*~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~*

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE - Kelly and Laris Bielata

Leader: Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

People: **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: Where there is division, we long for unity.

People: **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

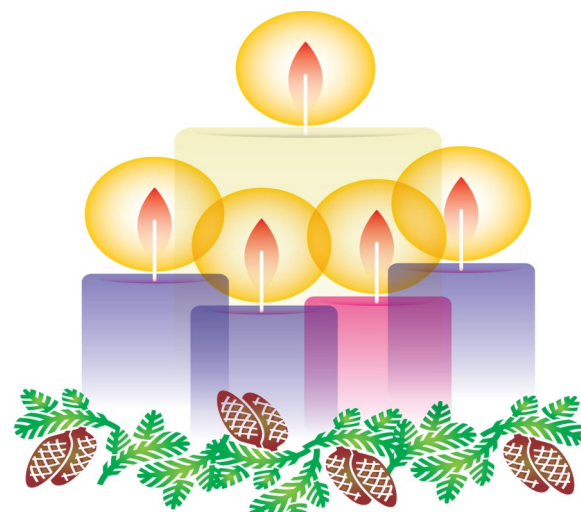
Leader: Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.

People: **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: Where there is separation, we long for reunion.

People: **Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: Today we light two candles. The first candle represents the everlasting hope that has touched our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world of division,



Our Traditional Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service will be held at 7:00 in  
the sanctuary.

Lessons, carols, anthems by the choir, a  
solo by Ruth Herrick, and a message  
from Pastor Glenn.

*O Come* ★  
*Adore* **Let Us**  
*Him*



## LET'S SING CHRISTMAS SONGS!!

Too often the Christmas season comes and goes and we do not get our fill of singing Christmas music. In worship, we focus on the advent season throughout December and sing hymns that encourage us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior.

## THIS YEAR WE HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SING!

We invite adults and children to a sing-a-long on Sunday, December 18 immediately after church in Fisher Hall. Bill Henry will bring his karaoke machine and will have songs ready to sing as well as taking requests!

DON'T WORRY, you do not have to sing in front of everyone with a microphone.....although we won't stop anyone from sharing their talents! We will also serve hot chocolate with all the toppings, Christmas cookies and popcorn!!

## CHRISTMAS DAY FALLS ON A SUNDAY?

Yes, every 7 years, (not exactly 7 because of Leap Year, but close enough!) Christmas falls on a Sunday. This year Pastor Glenn will offer a brief Christmas message and we will sing lots of Christmas carols!

brokenness and uncertainty, the second candle summons our hearts to the One called Prince of Peace. As the light shines, may we embrace and extend the peace of Christ in all that we do and say.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Christmas Hallelujah" Leonard Cohen  
Kennedy Bielata and Lori Seinar-Roknick

WORD FOR THE FAMILY "A Gye Nyami"

SCRIPTURE READINGS Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10 (page 11)  
Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12 (page 12)

SERMON "Did Jesus Fail?"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "Still, Still, Still" arr. by James Mansfield

\*Doxology No. 780

\*Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, we give in peace, a peace deeper than our anxiety and fear, a peace that trusts in your loving power. Receive our offerings and use them to bring peace to your world, our world. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Prayers of the People and Consecration and Lord's Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

**People: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray.....

## 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.**

## COMMUNION

### UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank God for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace and hope that it tells. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN "I Wonder as I Wander" (bulletin page 7)

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*THE POSTLUDE "Voluntary on Two Carols" David Kidwell

*Some material excerpted from Spacious Faith by Joanne Harader and from Hold Fast to What is Good by Beth Merrill Neel and adapted by Tim Morrison. Material used with permission.*

## I Wonder as I Wander

*Appalachian Carol*  
John Jacob Niles  
I WONDER AS I WANDER *Irregular*  
John Jacob Niles  
Harm. by John Ferguson, 1973

Unison Gm Cm

1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, How  
2. When Mar - y birthed Je - sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, With  
3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, A  
4. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, How

Gm D7 Gm

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die For  
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all. But  
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, Or  
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die For

Gm G

poor ord' - nary peo - ple like you and like I; I  
high from God's heav - en a star's light did fall, The  
all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, He  
poor ord' - nary peo - ple like you and like I; I

Gm Gm Cm

won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
prom - ise of a - ges it did then re - call.  
sure - ly could have it, 'cause he was the King.  
won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Copyright 1934 by G. Schirmer, Inc. Used by permission.