

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: " 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

*WELCOME TO
ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

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3rd Sunday of Advent

JOY





*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 Ruth and Clair Seeley, by their children.

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

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 service.

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



POINSETTIAS

Once again, the altar will be decorated with red poinsettias for Christmas. Would you like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend?

Please complete the form and return it to the office by December 16. Poinsettias are \$8.50/Ea.

NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF (circle one) _____

Please pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve or the Christmas Day service.

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LOOKING AHEAD

On Sunday, January 29, we will host a combined service with St. Paul's in Hermitage, St. Mark's in Fredonia and Zion's in Transfer followed by a potluck in Fisher Hall.

Rev. Glenn Sadler, Rev. Nicole Perkins and Rev. Ericjon Thomas will all participate in worship.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

December 11, 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 Vic 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 Zach Suntheimer, Acolyte

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

PRELUDE "Legend" P. I. Tchaikowsky/arr. by F. C. W.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Peace.
Leader: God's spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Hope.
Leader: God's spirit has led us here.
People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Joy.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 116 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: A voice cries in the wilderness:

People: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts to receive the hope and joy offered to us.

People: Together let us approach God and seek forgiveness.

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have put limits on the ways we love. We consistently lose our way. Show us your way. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Open our hearts to share your everlasting love with others. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: It is always good to know that...

People: God's love for us is sure.

Leader: It is always good to know that...

People: God guides us every step of the way.

Leader: We are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

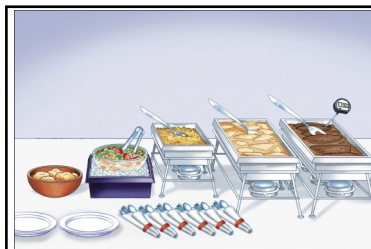
LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - Tina and Zach Suntheimer

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

People: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Leader: In the darkness, we long to see the light.

People: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.



GOOD SHEPHERD DINNER

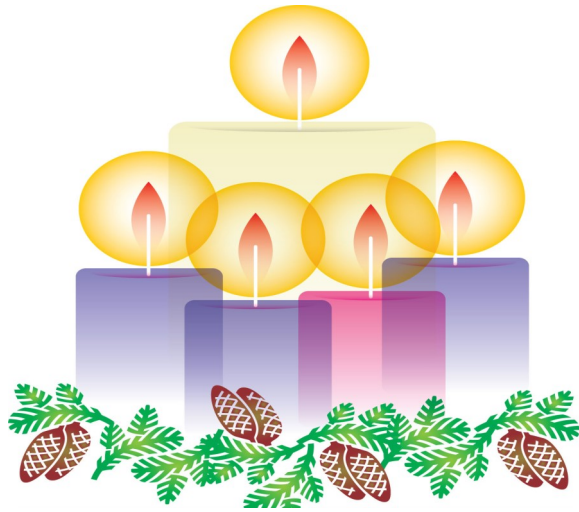
We will be serving the Christmas Dinner December 19. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve, clean up and deliver. Also donations of rolls and Christmas cookies are needed. Please contact Andrea Colaiaco at 724-813-5748 if you can help or donate.

DECEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS



- * Today, Messiah at First Presbyterian at 2:00.
- * Monday, December 12, Min. of Service and Missions at 6:00.
- * Wednesday, December 14, Consistory at 6:00.
- * Sunday, December 18, 4th Sunday of Advent.
- * 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.



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 
Let Us
Adore Him

Leader: In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

People: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Leader: In hardship, we long for an act of love.

People: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Leader: In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

People: Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Leader: Today we light three candles. The first candle radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The second candle calls us to embrace and extend Christ's peace to an unsettled world. The third candle extends the promise of joy to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true joy that sustains a weary people.

WORD FOR THE FAMILY "A Box of Joy"

CHOIR ANTHEM "The Voices of Christmas" Arr. by Joseph Martin

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10 (page 11)
Gospel Lesson Matthew 11:2-11 (page 12)

SERMON "John the Baptist's Question"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella"/"Here
We Come A-Wassailing" Old English Carol

*Doxology No. 780

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Loving God we offer these our gifts to you and ask you to bless them that in turn they will be a blessing to this community and to the world. May our gifts bring hope, peace and joy throughout the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 117 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Christmas In Killarney" John Redmond



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!