

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

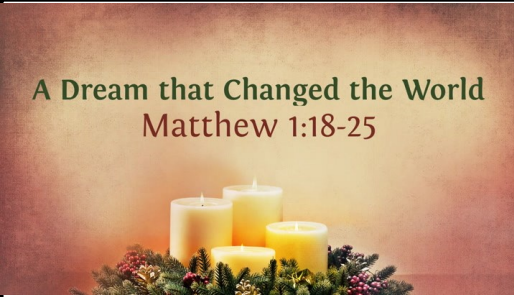
Julie's cell: 724-815-3291

4th Sunday of Advent

LOVE



A Dream that Changed the World
Matthew 1:18-25



*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. Glenn Sadler to the pulpit today. Glenn will also lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and the Christmas Day and New Year's Day services.

There is no Sunday School on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

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

The arrangement on the piano is in loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Samuel and Joan Haffey, Theodore W. Seinar and Sarah Batanian Seinar, lovingly presented by Michael, Lori Ann and Sarah.

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 Fisher Hall after the service today for Christmas Caroling. Refreshments will be served.

DECEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- * Today, 4th Sunday of Advent.
- * Today, 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.



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.

THE UCC CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

United Church of Christ retired clergy have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, comforting and empowering God's people. Now through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long.

Last year, the Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, provided over \$1.6 million to retired servants of the church and their families.

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Δ Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees
- Δ Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees
- Δ Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families
- Δ Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees.

There are 5 UCC offerings each year including The Christmas Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church and O.C.W.M. Zion's participates in all five offerings.

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Fund, please write UCC Christmas Fund on your envelope. We will receive the offering on January 1.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Glenn Sadler
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

December 18, 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 Ruth Herrick, 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 Emily Rinella, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~
PRELUDE "There's a Song in the Air" Lani Smith

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, sing and rejoice!
People: We will proclaim the coming of our Savior.
Leader: God is our joy and our peace, forever.
People: All praise and glory be to God.
Leader: People of God, your light has come.
People: Come, Lord Jesus.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 139 "The First Nowell"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How amazing is your love, O God! You are not secluded in some far off heaven, but instead, you have chosen to come to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Forgive us of our sins today, so our celebration of His birth may be a Holy celebration. Forgive us if we have strayed from You.

Show us your way O Lord. Restore to us that sense of wonder and awe which surrounded the birth of Jesus. Plant in our hearts the love that brought Your Eternal Word to earth. Move our hearts to joy! Come Lord Jesus! Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - The Baker Family

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

People: **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**

Leader: When we longed for the silence to be broken,

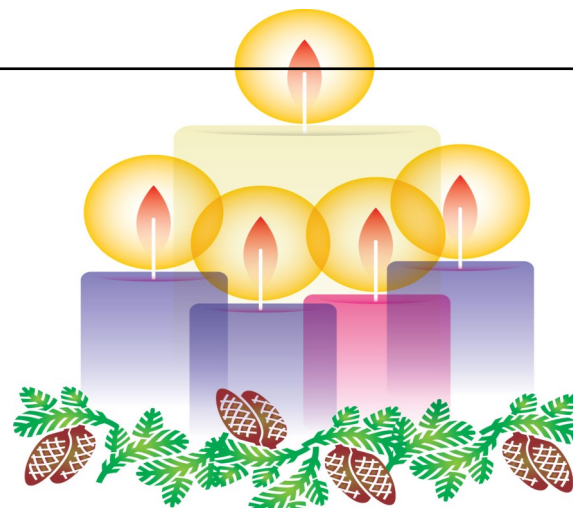
People: **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**

Leader: When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

People: **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**

Leader: When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

People: **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**



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

LET'S SING CHRISTMAS SONGS!

The kids had a great time singing along
with Bill Henry and his Karaoke machine
and

YOU WILL TOO!!

Also enjoy hot chocolate with all
the toppings, coffee, popcorn
and Christmas cookies!

SEE YOU AFTER CHURCH IN
FISHER HALL!



Leader: Today we light four candles. The first candle is the light of hope granting strength to the weary. The second candle is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The third candle is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The fourth candle reminds us of the light of God's love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

WORD FOR THE FAMILY

CHOIR ANTHEM "Gonna Find That Baby" Aspinall/Drennan

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.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into Hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON "Really?"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "Prayer" Genari Karganoff, Op.25, No. 5

*Doxology No. 780

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN "My Soul Proclaims That God is Good"
(page 7)

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Christmas is Coming" Vince Guaraldi

My Soul Proclaims That God is Good
(Sung to the tune "What Child is This?")

My soul proclaims that God is good

I sing to God my Savior.

For God has blessed me! I am loved!

God looks on me with favor.

*(refrain) God is not far away;
God cares for people every day.
God sees and loves the poor
And gives to them a blessing.*

The Mighty One has done great things;

I see God's hand of mercy.

God's people know the love God brings;

They know that God is holy.

(refrain)

God casts the mighty from their thrones;

The proud will surely scatter.

God lifts the lowly, hurting ones,

And shows them their lives matter.

(refrain)

God fills the hungry with good things;

And sends the rich ones hungering.

God's promise was to immigrants

And also to their children.

(refrain)