

Luke 1: 26-38 NLT

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail."

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

WELCOME TO  
ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

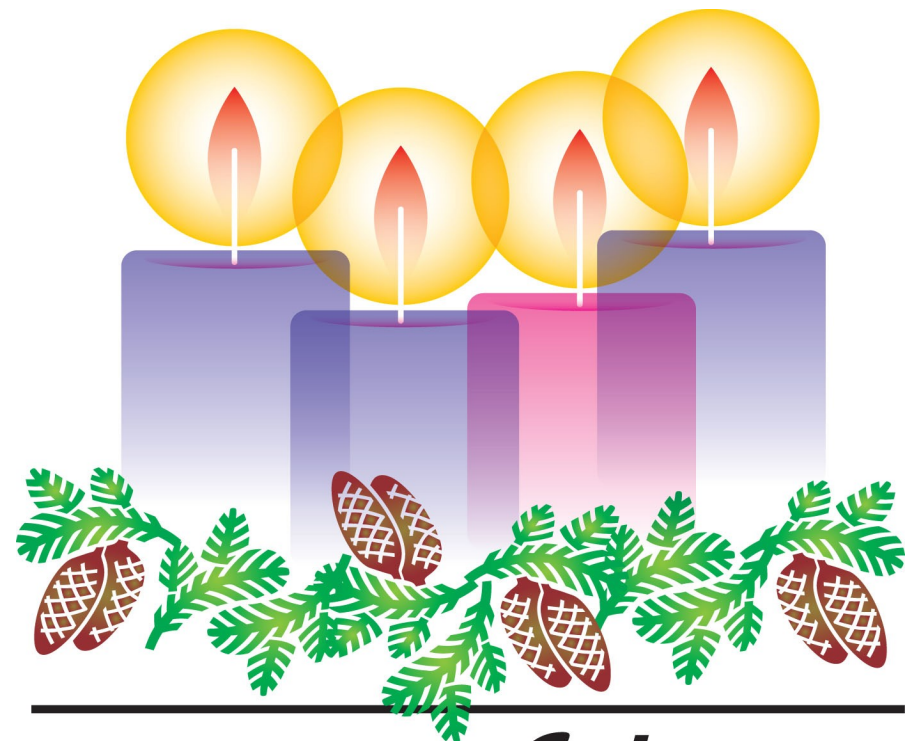
United Church of Christ

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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*You will conceive  
and give birth  
to a son,  
and you  
are to  
call him  
Jesus.*



Luke 1:31

*Welcome to  
Zion's Reformed  
Church!*

*We're glad you're  
here!*

We welcome Rev. Glenn Sadler to the pulpit. Thank you for being here!

The poinsettias in the sanctuary are donated by friends and family of the congregation. A complete listing is on page 10.

Ushering today are Vanessa Saylor, Linda Henry, Lori Tofani, Gianna Tofani and Alex Brown.

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

Everyone is welcome to enjoy coffee and conversation in the Anderson Lounge after the service.

**Large Print Bulletins** and Children's Activity Books are available in the back of the sanctuary. Also, seat cushions and copies of the sermon. Please help yourself or ask an usher.

**TONIGHT!**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00**

**COME LET US ADORE HIM**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 NLT

When King David was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies, the king summoned Nathan the prophet. "Look," David said, "I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!"

Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the LORD said to Nathan,

"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling. Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel's tribal leaders, the shepherds of my people Israel. I have never asked them, 'Why haven't you built me a beautiful cedar house?'"

"Now go and say to my servant David, 'This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past, starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

"Furthermore, the LORD declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings!

Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever."

The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given

In memory of:

Irene R. and Howard C. Wilson, Wendy Wilson Garraghty and Robert K Nace, by Beverly Wilson Nace, Robert F. Nace, and Gregory Howard Wilson.

Our families, by Ron and Mary Ann Malson.

Rev. Dr. Robert Keifer Nace, by Ruth Nace.

Pat and Gerald Fry, by Kim and Brian Scott and family.

Doris and Wayne Scott, by Kim and Brian Scott and family.

Our parents Herb and Shirley Aikens and grandparents Carl and Mamie Perrine and Samuel and Elizabeth Aikens, by Janice and Alan Aikens.

Mel and Esther Berry, by Karen Galus.

Roy, Virginia and Richard Saylor, by Vanessa Saylor.

Mom and Dad, Emery and Helen "Honey" Morrison, by Tim and Marta Morrison.

My brother and sister, Emery "Bub" Jr. and Bonnie, by Tim and Marta.

Craig, son, brother, uncle by Anita Powell and family.

Our son, Major Ryan W. Nicklin, by Darrell and Sue Nicklin.

Lee Holler, Arthur and Vada Beighley, Linda Beighley, Sandra Wiand, Sarah Fry and Harold Holler, by Carol Y. Holler.

Tom Herrick, by Ruth Herrick.

Jim Saal, by Carol Saal.

Natalie and Jerry Webber, my parents, by daughter Rise L. Weber.

In Honor of:

Our family, by Robert and Pat Seiple.

The spray on the piano is given in memory of Theodore W. Seinar, Jr. and Sarah Batanian Seinar, Samuel and Agnes Joan Roknick.

## ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Rev. Glenn Sadler**

**Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries**

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

December 24, 2023 10:30 a.m.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Douthett, 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

Sophie Powell, Acolyte

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

PRELUDE

"The First Nowell"

Craig Curry

\*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

**God of majesty and surprise, we come again to feel the gentle touch of your spirit. Our souls long to be closer to you. We crave to experience the depth of your love. Forgive us, for our disobedience and our feeble attempts at discipleship. As we follow Mary and Joseph once more to Bethlehem, open our hearts to your love and your saving grace. As we try our best of serve you and others in our world, have mercy on us. Help our souls to rejoice in your loving grace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

Anita Powell and Sophie Powell

Leader: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus.

People: **We worship God with joy in our hearts;**

Leader: As we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day:

People: **“Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.**

Leader: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

People: **With the coming of this light there is joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.**

HYMN NO. 109 “With Joy Draw Water”

ANGEL CHOIR “Welcome Christmas” Music by James Horner

WORD FOR THE FAMILY



## A Christmas Prayer

**Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.**

**Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.**

**May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

*~ Robert Louis Stevenson ~*

## CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS

The Christmas Fund is an annual UCC offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, a thank you gift at Christmas, and funds to meet emergency needs. Gifts to the Christmas Fund make an immediate impact on those who have so faithfully served us over the years. Thanks to the generosity of UCC members and congregations, no request goes unfulfilled.

We will receive this offering on December 31. Please mark your check or envelope "UCC Christmas Fund".

*From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.  
(John 1:16)*

## THIS N' THAT

The office will be closed (most of the time) from December 25 to January 2. However, please call me if you need anything.  
724-815-3291 - Julie

The Prayer Chain will meet Sunday, December 31 after worship in the chapel.

There is no Sunday School or Church Happening on Dec. 31.

Thank you to all who volunteered in any way for The Good Shepherd Meal served on Monday. 45 volunteers prepared, served, delivered, provided rolls and cookies and cleaned up. 210 meals were served to members of our community.

## 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.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "Love Came Down at Christmas" Christina Rossetti

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 NLT (page 11)  
Luke 1: 26-38 NLT (back of bulletin)

SERMON "The Covenant Continues!"

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "The Coventry Carol" Traditional English

\*Doxology No. 780

\*Prayer of Dedication

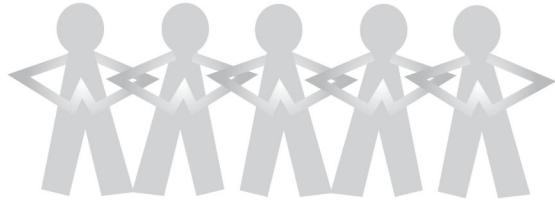
\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 145 "Once in Royal David's City"

\*BENEDICTION

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*THE POSTLUDE "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" John Marks

# Prayer Chain



Special thanks to members of the Prayer Chain who continue to pray for our members and others in the community who are suffering in any way. If you know of someone in need of prayer, please contact the church office or one of the members of the prayer chain. Members are:

Pat Seiple	seip144@msn.com
April Konig	akonig@neo.rr.com
Marion Krieder	ronmar57@verizon.net
Chris Stockner	stocknc@hotmail.com
Nancy Soult	jsoult135@neo.rr.com
Linda Seeley	laseeley151@verizon.net
Bob Kobele	kobelerobert467@gmail.com
Pastor Glenn	twosadlers59@gmail.com
Josie Harbaugh	rharbaugh@roadrunner.com
Jean Fagley	724-588-4467
LaWanda Johnston	724-589-4671

LaWanda Johnston was instrumental in starting the prayer chain back in February 2001. She organized the group, held monthly meetings and has made thousands of phone calls to update the prayer list. Her commitment to this group is indicative of her love for God and her love for Church. LaWanda is now residing in The Villas at St. Paul's recovering from a fall. Please keep her in your prayers and if you would like to send her a "thinking of you" card, her address is 339 E. Jamestown Rd., Greenville.

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to our  
members living at St.  
Paul's and The Grove.*

## **St. Paul's - The Ridgewood**

Bert Heckman  
Pat Stearns  
Elaine Wilkins  
Sandy Beckman

## **St. Paul's - The Villas**

Sam Gano  
LaWanda Johnston  
Bev Lysek  
Janet Cooper

## **St Paul's - The Heritage**

Harry Lean

## **Serenity Circle/Lane**

Pat Houpt

## **St. Paul's - Community Home**

Marilyn Saal, 30 Oakview Drive

## **The Grove at Greenville**

Dolores Harrison

If you would like to visit one of our shut-in's, room numbers for all St. Paul's residents are listed in a book at each location.