

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For 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."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

260 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125

Phone: 724-588-6940

Rev. Steven L. Craft, Senior Pastor

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THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Luke 3:11



GOOD MORNING and WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH!

The Altar Flowers are placed in appreciation for the beautiful Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and the Anderson Lounge. Thank you to the Altar Guild and Ministry of Welcoming and Fellowship.

Ushering this month are Bill Henry, Linda Henry, Debbie Woodworth and Lori Tofani.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after the Children's Sermon for Church Happening.

Everyone is invited to the Anderson Lounge after the service for coffee and conversation.

Large Print Bulletins and seat cushions are available in the back of the sanctuary. Coloring books and crayons are available for children.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND

The UCC Christmas Fund provides direct financial assistance for our ministers, church workers and their families in need. If you would like to contribute, please write UCC Christmas on your check or envelope.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Ruth Nace, wife of Rev. Robert K. Nace, will be 97 years old on December 23. If you would like to send her a card, her address is 302 Linden Ponds Way, Apt. 416, Hingham, MA 02043.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

December 11 at 6:00: Consistory

The Ministries of Welcoming and Fellowship and Christian Ed and Youth **will not** meet in December.

GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER DINNER

The dinner at The Good Shepherd Center is tomorrow. If you can donate Christmas cookies or rolls, please bring them to the church or take them directly to the center.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM

INVITE A FRIEND!

There will be no SS or Confirmation Class on December 29.

The office will be closed December 24, 25, 30 and 31 and January 1.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Steven L. Craft, Senior Pastor

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

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

December 15, 2024 10:30 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Tina Suntheimer, 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 and THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

Zachary Suntheimer, Acolyte

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

PRELUDE "We are The Reason" David Meece/Ken Barker

CHORAL INTROIT "Angels We Have Heard on High" Trad. Carol

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

People: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Leader: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

People: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Leader: Let your praise dance in tribute to God!

People: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 55 "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, remind us today and every day that we have good reason to be joyful, and forgive us for focusing our minds on negative things. Because you sent you Son into the world, we can truly celebrate this season of wonder. Fill our hearts with calm assurance so that we might be messengers of peace who joyfully spread your love wherever we go.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - **JOY**

Leader: Advent is marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.

People: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Leader: Advent is a time to open our eyes to our many blessings.

People: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Leader: Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.

People: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Leader: Advent is a time to remember the promises of God.

People: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.

Leader: Today we light three candles - the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy. The light of this third candle reminds us that we have no reason to be fearful or anxious, because God has sent us a Savior. We should be glad in this affirmation of God's love for us and pledge to serve him faithfully with joy-filled hearts.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Light a Single Candle" David Wingate

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.

SCRIPTURES Zephaniah 3:14-20 (bulletin page 7)
Philippians 4:4-7 (bulletin page 7)
Luke 3: 7-18 (back of bulletin)

SERMON "Enjoy?"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "Pat-A-Pan" Richard Huggins

*Doxology No. 780

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 129 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

*THE BENEDICTION and TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Masters In This Hall" Bethany K. Smith