

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost
thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

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

Pastor's email: 1pastorsteve@gmail.com

Church's e-mail: info@zionsucc.org

And Mary said,

*My soul
magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit
rejoices in God
my Savior*

Luke 1:46-47



*GOOD
MORNING!
WELCOME TO
ZION'S REFORMED
CHURCH!*

The poinsettias in the sanctuary were given in memory of and in honor of loved ones. A listing is on the insert.

The spray on the piano is in loving memory of Sarah Batanian Seinar, Theodore W. Seinar, Jr. and Samuel and Agnes Roknick, lovingly given by Michael, Lori and Sarah.

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.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 7:00
A SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS, AND
CANDLES
WITH PARTICIPATION BY ZION'S YOUTH
AND SPECIAL MUSIC BY RUTH HERRICK.

There is no Sunday School or
Confirmation next Sunday.

One Candle Is Lit

1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,
 5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,

1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
 2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
 3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
 4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,
 5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.

1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
 2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
 3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
 4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.
 5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.

1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
 2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
 3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
 4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.
 5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

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 22, 2024 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 Josie Harbaugh, 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

Emily Rinella, Acolyte

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

PRELUDE "There's a Song in the Air" arr. by Matt Hyzer

GATHERING SONG "Jesus, We Worship You"

**Jesus, we worship You, Jesus we worship You,
 Like the ancient wisemen we bow and worship You.
 Songs of praise we sing to You, gifts of love we bring to You.
 Jesus, O Lord divine, we bow and worship You.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 133, selected verses adapted)

Leader: Behold! How good and how pleasant it is,

People: For God's children to dwell together in unity.

Leader: For there the Lord commanded the blessing,

People: Life forevermore!

*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 to 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~

SPECIAL MUSIC "C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S" Bill Henry

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - **LOVE**

Leader: Jesus Christ is our hope for peace and joy. Because God loves us, we can love. Today we light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

People: Our God, you loved us enough to come to earth in Jesus Christ so that all people can be saved. May your love, so plainly made manifest in the Christ Child, fill our lives and guide us in the way we live with one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN "One Candle is Lit" (bulletin page 6)

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 Luke 1:39-55 (back of bulletin)

SERMON "All Generations will be Blessed"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "What the World Needs Now Is Love"

*Doxology No. 780

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 106 "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"

*THE BENEDICTION and TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "I Saw Three Ships" Mary McDonald