



RINGING OF THE BELLS

FAITH IN ACTION – ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

We Believe In One True God

by Brian Glyncannon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Now is the time of watching and waiting

Now is the season of hope unfolding.

Restore us, O God;

Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*HYMN

Come Christians Join to Sing

(Tune: Madrid/Spanish Hymn)

Come, Christians, join to sing. Alleluia! Amen!

loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord of Advent tells us to keep awake, be watchful for His coming, and keep our hearts open.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Let us pray:

Dear God, your promises shine light into our darkness. In this Advent time, pry us free from our fears, so that we can hope again – hope for your presence, for your peace, for your will to become reality in this world; through the One whose arrival is certain, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

... Restore us, O God;

Let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

... In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME THE CHILDREN: Lighting the ADVENT Candle of HOPE

(SILENCE while we light candle of HOPE)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we light the candle of HOPE, we celebrate the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus. Help us to share Your hope with others.

Let us pray. Dear God, as we begin our Advent journey, grant us the courage to hope.

Hope for your presence, Hope for your peace, Hope for your promise. Amen.

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord!

PSALTER Psalm 80:1-7 NRSV

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

 you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,

 and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

 let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

 how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,

 and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

 our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

 let your face shine, that we may be saved.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 NIV

“But in those days, following that distress, ‘the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light;

the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back— whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

WITNESS TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We are so thankful for the generous gifts of our members and friends!

If you are able, we hope that you will choose to support the work of

Zion United Church of Christ with your financial gifts.

If you would like to contribute online, please go to our website,

www.zionucclowden.org, and click on the Give button.

OFFERTORY

“Toda la Tierra”

by Alberto Taule

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Deck the Halls

Praise to God who reigns above, Ha-lle-lu-jah

Praise to God who comes in love, Ha-lle-lu-jah

Gifts we bring for Christ our Savior, Ha - lle-lu-jah

Hope and peace, and joy forever, Ha - lle-lu-jah!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and loving God, **thank You for the promise of this season. Bless the gifts we offer this day, and let them be a blessing for others, for the sake of Your Son who came among the poor to bring the riches of Your grace. Amen**

*HYMN

We Hail You, God’s Anointed

No. 104

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,

To take away transgression, And rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers, Upon the fruitful earth,
And joy and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go
And righteousness, in fountains, From hill to valley flow.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

by Marty Haugen

*There are no visitors in God's house, only family members we have not yet met.
If this is your first time worshiping with us, welcome home – even though we're not in the same space.
We are always glad to meet new members of God's family. If you are looking for a church home, please
join us as we follow Jesus! ALL are welcome. We are so glad that you are with us!*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Organist:	Carter Horman
Liturgist:	Megan Horman
Videographer & Power Point:	Aaron Horman
Pastor:	Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams