

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

Zion United Church of Christ

December 24, 2020

3:30 & 6:30 p.m.

*[Scriptures and words to all carols are at end of
bulletin, beginning on page 6.]*

The Bell Calls All to Worship
The Sanctuary is darkened.

Prelude "O Holy Night"

Procession of Light

Reading

Isaiah 9: 2

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined."*

The Light of Christ is carried in,
The Paschal and altar candles are lit, then candelabra.

*Christmas Responses

On this Christmas Eve, may we open our hearts to the Holy Light which brings hope,
peace, joy and love.

Advent candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE are lit from the Christ candle.

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

O come, let us adore Him!

For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

O come, let us adore Him!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*Carol

O Come all Ye Faithful

Page 6

Christmas Prayer

Christ our Light is born,

the Light no darkness can destroy.

Let us pray: **O God, let the brightness of your true Light shine in the dark corners
of our world, and shine in our lives, that we may be visible signs of Your love,
justice, and joy. Amen.**



Moment for Silent Reflection

*Declaration of Grace

The news we have hungered for fills our lives;
the news we have been searching for has found us;
the news that is for all people is proclaimed: a Savior has been born - for us!
The One who is our hope has arrived; the One who is our life has come to us; the One who is our joy is in our midst: Jesus Christ the Lord!
In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

*Passing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace

Reading Isaiah 9: 6-7 Page 6

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!* (v. 3) Page 6

Gospel Luke 2: 1 -12 Page 7

Carol *Away in a Manger* (vss. 1-2) Page 7

Gospel Luke 2: 13 -20 Page 7

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

ALL: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people!'

Singing

Glo - o - ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo - o - ria, in excelsis Deo!

Meditation by the Manger

Special Music

Megan Horman & Carter Horman

Prayers of the People



*1 Helen Robson
"For Tonight You are Mine"*

Giving our Gifts to the Christ Child

Offertory

The Coventry Song

*Doxology

What Child is This?

No. 148, vs. 3

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;
 The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby.
 Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Invitation

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of all people.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Beloved, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. . . . All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation!

*Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

Loving God, at this blessed Christmas feast we give you thanks and praise. At the very beginning of time, you spoke the word that replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld Your glory, Immanuel!

With the woman who gave you birth,
 the man who took you on his shoulders,
 the shepherds who found you in a manger,
 the magi who knew of you from the silent stars,
 the prophets who saw in you the redemption of the world,
 and with the angels who caroled glory to you in the highest heavens,
 we join our voices in praise of your name:

**Sanctus (spoken in unison)*

**Holy Lord, God of endless love, heaven and earth
are surely full of Your glory. The angels sang of it,
the shepherds encountered it, we have been blessed with it.
Blessed is He who is born this night.
Glory to God, and on earth peace to all people!**

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

*Christ Himself is the host at this table. All who sincerely seek forgiveness,
and who wish to know the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ are welcome.
Please hold the bread and the juice until all have been served, then we will receive together.*

Music during Communion

*Prayer after Communion

We give You thanks and praise, O God, for this most blessed night.
We thank You for the holy sacrament we have received, and for all You have done through the One born in Bethlehem. Let Christ truly come into our hearts, and help us to proclaim His great wonders, that all the world may truly know and believe. Amen.

*Sharing the Light of Christ

Pass the light to the person next to you, but please DO NOT TIP a lighted candle!

*Carol

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*Benediction

*Sung Response *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Dismissal

Go in peace, and live in the joy of Christmas.

Christ our Savior is born. Alleluia! AMEN!

Merry Christmas!

*Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*those who are able may stand



You may take your poinsettias home for your holiday celebrations,
or please pick them up by Tuesday, December 29.
Check with Joy Combs or Terry Lasack to be sure you get the correct one!

Songs and Scriptures for Christmas Eve Worship

Opening Hymn

O Come all Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels
 O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
 Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

READING

Isaiah 9: 6-7

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings Ris'n with healing in His wings
 Mild He lays His glory by Born that we no more may die
 Born to raise us from the earth Born to give them second birth
 Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1 -12

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius (kwy – rin-ee-us) was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor babe awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 13 -20

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

ALL: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people!'

ALL SINGING

Angels We Have Heard on High

(chorus only)

Glo - o - ria, in excelsis Deo! Glo - o - ria, in excelsis Deo!

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thank you to our Worship Leaders

Acolytes:	Cadence and Carter Horman
Liturgist:	3:30 pm: Terry Lasack 6:30 pm: David Niermeyer
Organist:	Joy Combs
PowerPoint:	Carter Horman
Ushers:	Church Council
Videographer:	Jody Yutesler (6:30 pm only)
Worship Assistant	Aaron Horman
Ministers:	All believers
Pastor:	Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams



For such a time as this God comes to be with us, again. These times also call us to deeper compassion and increased generosity. The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross to support retired UCC clergy and church staff and surviving clergy spouses. Through the generosity of churches like ours, these servants of the church receive emergency financial assistance, help with health care costs, and annual “thank you” checks. We give not only to meet their needs, not only to thank them for their ministries, but also to make room in our hearts and their lives for a new thing to break forth. This special offering will be received in our church during the month of December. Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary. You may also donate directly and securely all year round at www.christmasfund.org