



“PEACE”



**ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN**
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 | 9:45 a.m.

*All who are able may stand

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

People: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.

Leader: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

People: Comfort, comfort, O my people, says our God of peace: the grass withers and the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever!

*Invocation

*Hymn # 140: "*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*"

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 captives free, to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.

He comes with justice 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. Love, 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.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend, his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove. His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: Our homes and our world are under siege with information. Television and telemarketing, blogs and texts: so much information often bearing too little wisdom. Angry voices compelling hate; quiet voices counseling complacency, mechanical voices offering "deals"... too much information! Too little wisdom!

All: Confusion surrounds us; truth gets lost. We call out in confusion... Where is your wisdom O God? Where is the word that leads to life?

One: We remind ourselves of our ancient story: John, Zacariah's son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

All: "prepare God's arrival! Make God's road smooth and straight!"

One: Let us light this second candle of Advent, a candle of Peace. In its light, let us think, quietly and peacefully, about what voices of true life-change and forgiveness are speaking in our world right now. Let us share those voices with each other, with words of welcome and peace.

All: Let this candle of Advent Peace shine in our hearts all week and remind us to enter into times of quiet and peace to listen, through the noise of our lives, for the call to prepare for the Holy One.

Hymn # 128: "One Candle is Lit" (Verse 2)

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord of mercy, God of grace, we give thanks to you with one voice for the joy and hope this season brings. At times we find ourselves distracted by all the preparations and stresses that surround us. Help us to focus on you, our Rock and Redeemer. Restore our hearts to your message of love and your call to peace. Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Message in Music

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of the Day

Lord, it was You Who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Teach us today in the power of Your Holy Spirit, the truths that You would have us learn. Lord, we know that humankind shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Feed us on Your Word I pray, and make us hungry for the living word that came down from heaven. May the Spirit of all Truth open our hearts and minds today as we read and study Your Word. May we be willing to be led into all truth and to be taught what the will of the Father for our lives. We ask that you give us willing hearts and the opportunity to share with others the pearls of truth You will teach us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and

silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Epistle Lesson Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

One: The Word of God **All: Thanks be to God**

***Gospel Lesson Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked

shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

One: The Gospel of Christ **All: Thanks be to God**

The Message

Hymn # 142: "People Look East"

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Touch earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People look east: Love, the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People look east: Love the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Invitation to Stewardship

Our Gifts Are Gathered

***Offertory Response # 382**

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love, and we give with love. Love for you, our God and love for your beautiful people. Receive these generous offerings and use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayers

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing of the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, a light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Thank you for recharging our batteries and reviving your ambient glow within us. You are the power source that never gives out – eternally renewable and sustainable. Thank you, God... thank you, Christ... thank you, Spirit... Amen.

WE DEPART IN PEACE

***Hymn # 127: "*Creator of the Stars of Night*"**

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.*

To you the deep travail was known that made the whole creation groan. You came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

*When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not
in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary,
blameless mother mild.*

*At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one accord, like
those in heaven shall call you Lord.*

Commission

Benediction

Postlude

WE FOCUS ON OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Leader: Rev. Julius Jefferson

Liturgist: Steve Wilcox

Music Director: Thad Paulhamus

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Elaine Baker*, Bryan Barbalace, Howard Bethke*, Les &
Vivian Bowser, Casey Brewer, Richard Buck, Chris Carter,
Betty Cornes, Shirley Dalgo, Deborah Devan, Betty Dillinger*,
Joan Edwards*, Sandy Freund, Carleigh Ginevan, Brantley
Horton, Marie Kachinski, Gerri Krotee, Henry Krotee, Barbara
Langenfelder*, Judy Langenfelder, Ruth Langenfelder*,
Scott Lein, Jim Meyer, Jim Murphy III, Joyce Murphy, Mary
Murphy, Catherine Pardo*, Annabell Phillips*, Pastor Bob and
Barbara Ridenour, Anne Ringsdorf, David Ringsdorf, Shirley
Ritter*, John Small, Ed Weingart, Doris Wengler, Kerri Wilcox,
Zack Winter, service men and women, Peace on Earth.
(*Shut-ins)

This Week...

6: Turner Seniors – Lower Hall (9:30 am)
Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary (7:00 pm)

8: Essex Golden Agers – Lower Hall (10:00 am)

12: Worship – Steve Wilcox (9:45 am)

UCC MISSION MOMENT
December 5, 2021 Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 3:1-6 "Make Ready"

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

The list of people whose names begin this chapter of the book of Luke are powerful and important. The emperor Tiberius was not merely the ruler of the whole known world, he was considered an infallible god. Tiberius himself appointed Pontius Pilate, whose powerful name very loosely translated means, Free Person Who Carries a Sharp Spear. Just hearing his name, everyone would know that Pilate was not only master of his own destiny, but also that his military prowess was unrivaled. Herod and Philip were brothers in a politically successful family who ruled with the twin fists of nepotism and corruption. Lysanias is not mentioned elsewhere in scripture, but in his own time he was a big deal, big enough that he came to the attention of Cleopatra who sent Mark Anthony to depose him. Last but certainly not least, the two high priests mentioned shared the most important religious role of their time. Together occupying a role meant for one person, they were constantly jostling for position and power.

John's words fell into this world of the famous and powerful, the politically savvy and the militarily successful. He spoke not in the city, or the temple, not in the palace or the town square, not on social media or television, but in the wilderness. John was a nobody, and he spoke in the middle of nowhere to an audience (at first) of no one.

And yet, all these centuries later, his message is the one that is still heard, still followed. It was John, the voice on the margins, who pointed the way to Christ, rather than those at the center of privilege and popularity.

Somewhere in each community, a voice is crying in the wilderness right now. Somewhere on the margins, a messenger is urgently telling of Christ's way. The voice may be hard to hear over the clamoring of the powerful. But this Advent, may we open our ears to hear.

Giving Envelopes for 2022

2022 envelopes are now available for pick up in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Forms are available in the narthex, the office porch, and the December Messenger. You may also call Jane Anderson at (410) 598-2110. The deadline is December 19, 2021 and your memorial donation must be turned in with submission.

Christmas Memorials will be printed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin and the January Messenger.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Christmas Poinsettias will once again adorn Zion's chancel on Christmas Eve. Forms are available in the narthex, the office porch, and the December Messenger. You may also call Jane Anderson at (410) 598-2110. The deadline is December 12, 2021 and payment of \$14 per plant must be turned in with submission. Poinsettia Memorials will be printed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin and the January Messenger.

Church Staff

Ministers	All members of Zion UCC	
Tim Dalgo, Sr.	Council President	410-608-1670 Email: tadalgo@comcast.net
Jane Anderson	Congregational Care	410-598-2110 Email: janeanderson8@comcast.net
Thad Paulhamus	Music Director	443-610-7844
John Hayman	Caretaker	443-904-3910 Email: caretaker@zionuccmd.com
Jen Pilarski	Sunday School Super.	410-303-7446
Rev. C. Larry Fisher	Pastor Emeritus	

Administrative Office: 410-687-0980

- * Press 1 to leave voicemail message
- * Press 2 for Pastoral Services
- * Press 3 to contact Council President
- * Press 4 to contact Cemetery
- * Press 5 to contact Caretaker
- * Press 6 to contact Congregational Care

Website: www.zionuccmd.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/zionuccmd

General Email: info@zionuccmd.com

Live worship is held each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary as well as live streamed on our website. The education building is also open and available for meetings, community groups, and other gatherings.

The church office is closed during business hours but open to members by appointment. The phone and email are monitored, and all incoming mail is processed daily. For convenience, you may leave envelopes, mail, etc. in the locked box on the office porch. Bulletins and other materials are also available on the porch.

If you require pastoral services, please call the office at (410) 687-0980 & press #2 or email "pastor@zionuccmd.com". Tim Dalgo will arrange for a local, call pastor to contact you.



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