

WELCOME TO
Old Zionsville United Church of Christ
5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net Web page: www.oldzionsucc.org

Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

December 4, 2022

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Second Sunday of Advent/Peace
"Stand As A Signal"

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch shall spring from roots.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor with righteousness around his waist.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place with wisdom and might he'll lead the way.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.
(Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13)

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of the waiting wanderers in the wilderness, we enter this moment of worship expecting that when we leave this hour of prayer, we will be full of the courage needed to stand as a signal. We come to the mountain to feel closer to your presence, O God. May the mountains yield prosperity for your people. May righteousness flourish and peace abound. You, alone, are the God who does wondrous things. May your glory fill this place as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen

(Inspired by Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19)

*Opening Hymn: "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Leader: We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love.

(Moment of silence)

God, we admit that we do not always stand as a signal for your righteousness.

All: In the hustle and bustle of our lives, we have left little room to witness—to be your hands and feet in a world that needs us now more than ever. In the warm belly of comfort, many of us have relaxed in the layers of our privilege, not attending to the needs of the least of these. Forgive us, O God. Give us the courage to stand tall, to follow in the footsteps of the one who came to secure justice for the poor, bring equity to the meek, and condemn the wicked with his lips. And on that day, we shall stand as a signal to the people.

Words of Grace

Beloved, know that God's grace and mercy abound, and in God and Christ, we are forgiven. Let us live into this gift. Amen.

*Hymn: "Let It Rise" (Words on Screen)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. **3** His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, **4** but with

righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. **6** The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. **7** The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. **9** They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. **10** In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Reflection

Choir Anthem

*The Pastoral Prayer...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, for ever. Amen

Invitation to Generosity

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

*Presentation of Our Offerings and The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a signal to the people that there is a God who saves, heals, and sets free. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "God is Truly With Us"

*Benediction

Leader: Let us go forth knowing that we are led by God,

All: that we are held by God, that we are loved by God.

Leader: Let us know that God empowers us as God holds and leads and loves us;

All: And knowing all that, Let us stand as a signal

Leader: That the glory of God dwells with us now and forever more.

All: Amen

Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude

Please remain in the pews for the Congregational Annual Meeting
and the Cemetery Association meeting.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are from Judy and Len Hoch in memory of their son, Colby.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Joyce Nishnic in memory of her parents, Wallace and Emily Stephens.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Jan Strobel.

TODAY'S GREETER is Kathy Latshaw.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.

Mask Wearing - Consistory has agreed that individuals can make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. If you find yourself testing positive for COVID, **please contact the church office** so we can alert others who may have been in contact with you during time spent at church. Thank you.

Windows to the Future - Congratulations congregation! The third annual matching gift challenge was a success. THANKS to four supportive members, this year's challenge was \$4,000. THANKS to the generosity of the congregation an additional \$4,186 was raised. The third and final phase of the windows restoration can now begin.

ATF - This year's Christmas Shoppers Shopping Days Giveaway for the clients of the Zionsville Area Food Pantry and Grace Lutheran Church of Macungie's Food Cupboard was a huge success. We had 78 happy and very grateful shoppers! Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers! Thanks to everyone who donated gifts!! We will continue accepting new and gently used items all year long. You may bring donations to the church or call Millie Kohler.

The Zionsville Area Food Pantry is asking for donations of \$25 Walmart gift cards for the children for Christmas. Please bring these to church anytime or mail. Questions, please ask Millie Kohler, call or text.

Angel Tree before leaving today. This year the angels don't have specific items to purchase. Instead, they have information where you can purchase items needed by The Kindness Project, which assists foster families. You can go on The Kindness Project website and purchase an item through Amazon Smile, or if you prefer, you can donate money to FUN Group, and we will purchase items on the Amazon list.



White Gifts will be collected for the young adults (ages 10-21) who live at Bethany Ministries next **Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10:15 a.m.** Their Wish List can be found in the Newsletter. We thank Diane and Mike Berger for delivering these gifts to Bethany this year.

Lunch Bunch will meet Friday, December 16 at 12:00 p.m. at Superior Restaurant, 102 State Avenue, Emmaus. Please RSVP to Linda or Mark no later than Monday, December 12.

Christmas Eve Worship – This year we will have a 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service and a 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service. Our 3pm service will be candles and carols in a shortened service.

Week of December 4-10, 2022:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary: Brenda Seitz, hours Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School & Confirmation

10:15am Worship, White Gift Sunday, Baptism

Total Offerings from November 27:

General Offerings: \$2,122.00

Mission: \$35.00

Windows to the Future: \$435.00

Communion: \$6.00

Attendance: 59

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$25.00

Cemetery: \$5.00