

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 11, 2022

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday/Joy
“Strengthen Your Resolve”

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship

One: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: We come today with eager hope, awaiting God’s new revelation.

One: The mighty One has done great things! God’s mercy covers generations.

All: We come today with ready peace, trusting with anticipation.

One: The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry, dwells with us.

All: We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.

(Inspired by Luke 1:46b-55, The Magnificat)

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of Mary, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Rahab—God of us all, your children here and your children afar—We enter this moment of worship with eager anticipation. We know that even before a child would come to lead the way, You were leading our way. From the valleys of the shadows of death to the tables in the presence of enemies, you have never left us nor forsaken us. Your rod and your staff have guided us. Guide us now, O God. Make your presence known as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me” (all verses)

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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 amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

(Moment of silence)

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need.

All: We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

Words of Grace

In this season of desolation and uncertainty, it is good to know that God's love for us is sure—that God's commitment to us is definite—that God is walking with us, guiding us, as the compassionate companion that we are called to be for each other. Let us live into this gift. Amen.

*Hymn: "Each Winter as the Year Grows Older" (vs. 1only) insert

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46b-55

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; 50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Songs by our Sunday School Children – Caroline French and Matt Yenser

Reflection

Choir Anthem

Sacrament of Baptism (see insert)

*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

Bringing Forth of the White Gifts

Invitation to Generosity

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

*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

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

*Closing Hymn: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (both vs.) p.244

*Benediction

One: Go forth with great expectation

All: Waiting for God's mercy to fill us,

One: Waiting for God's grace to surround us

All: Waiting for God's child to lead us

One: And in that waiting,

All: May God bless and keep you

One: May God's face shine upon you

All: May God be gracious to you

One: And give you peace.

All: Amen

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are from Chester Yeakel in memory of his wife, Martha.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS are in loving memory of Bernie Stahler commemorating her Birthday given by Larry and Angela Stahler.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Bob and Annie Souder in memory of loved ones.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Wendy Yeakel.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Marvin and Barbara Kerchner.

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 - The 2022 Matching Gift Challenge was a success, raising over \$8,000 for the Windows Fund. The year ends with a fund balance that allows us to begin Phase 3 of the project, beginning with restoration of the nativity window stained glass. Work on the twin windows and protective glass on the three windows will be on hold until additional funds are raised. Please keep the continued success of the project in your prayers.

Need a last minute gift? Consider one of the quilts that are on display in our upper social hall. We are asking \$350 each but will entertain any reasonable offer. We even have a box for you to wrap and gift! See Pastor Lori, Ruth Stansfield, or Beth Massa for details. Proceeds go to our Windows to the Future fund.

Lunch Bunch will meet this 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 11-17, 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
(Brenda will be on vacation from Dec. 19-Dec. 27)

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

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Lunch Bunch – Friday @ noon at Superior Restaurant

“At the Stroke of Midnight” – Saturday @ 6:30pm at Pines Dinner Theatre

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School & Confirmation

9:45am Third Sunday Treats

10:15am Worship, loose offering to Pastor’s Discretionary Fund

Total Offerings from December 4:

General Offerings: \$1,642.00

Mission: \$10.00

Windows to the Future: \$140.00

Communion: \$42.00

Heat: \$25.00

ATF: \$25.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$54.00

Attendance: 51