

WELCOME TO
Old Zionsville United Church of Christ
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Old Zionsville, PA 18068

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Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

December 24, 2022

3:00p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Christmas Eve

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: A trumpet blares through the silent night! A new song heralds the coming light!

All: Let us sing the new song, Let us turn to the light, Let us build a new earth, Let us celebrate new life!

One: Let the sea's deep rumble make the sky tremble! Let the field's high chanting make the clouds dance!

All: Let us sing the new song, Let us turn to the light, Let us build a new earth, Let us celebrate new life!

*Opening Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (all vs.) p.250

Responsive Litany

One: Advent is a time to proclaim.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

One: We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

*Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (all vs.) p.262

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

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. **3** You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. **4** For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. **5** For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. **6** 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. **7** Great will be his authority, 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.

*Hymn: "What Child Is This?" (vs. 1 only) p.281

Prayer

One: If Mother Earth could sing out loud, she would praise God for the birth of the Savior,

All: and we would take up the song and join with heart and soul and voice.

One: If the stars and planets and galaxies could sing out loud, they would praise God for the birth of the Promised One,

All: and we would take up the song and rejoice that God's compassion was with God's people.

One: If the mountains and the rivers, the oceans and the forest could sing out loud, they would praise God for the birth of the Chosen One,

All: and we would take up the song and be glad that Jesus has come for all days and generations.

One: The children of God *can* sing out loud, and in hymns and carols and songs they praise God for the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem,

All: and the saints of every age take up the song and join their voices with ours, to bring glory and thanksgiving to our loving God. Amen.

*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

*Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (vs. 1, 2 & 3) p.278

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** 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. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** 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 in the guest room.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" **15** 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." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, **19** and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Reflection

Invitation to Share Offerings

*Presentation of Our Gifts 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

One: O God, accept this offering, for it will bring enlightenment.

All: The searchers will find a faithful map, the sick will be aware of

hope, the depressed will find worth in their days, the anxious will come to peace, the dispossessed will find a place to be, and your people's gifts will have been blessed. Amen

The Lighting of Candles

*The light will be brought to the end of each row, tip your unlit candle into the flame so that it may take hold. **Do not tip your lit candle!** Pass the light along your row until every candle is lit. After the candles are lit we will join in singing.*

*Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (all vs.) p.253
(words will be on the screen)

Leader: As the lights are dimmed (*usher dims the lights*) let us hold up our candles....One candle is but a flicker, but together, we create a bright flame of Christ's light in the world. Consider the beauty of our lights shining together. Jesus is the light of the world! Jesus is the hope of all our tomorrows! May we be witnesses of the light Christ brings, **Amen.**

As you gently extinguish your candle, carry the light of Jesus' love with you.

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World!" (all vs.) p.270

Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude



TONIGHT'S GREETERS are members of Consistory.

Restrooms are available on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. We have Bulletin Magnifier Sheets if needed. They can be found on the sound system.

Mask Wearing - Consistory has agreed that based on the current CDC guidelines that we will allow individuals to make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. Although the hymn words will be on the screen, feel free to use the hymnals in the pews to find the song and have the notes with the words to help you sing along. The hymn numbers will appear on the screen and/or in the bulletin.

New **Church Membership Directories** are available at the entrance for pick up along with offering envelopes for 2023.