

**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 24, 2022

7:30p.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: The splendor of God has been revealed among us. A child has come to change all our ways.

**All: We who have walked in the shadows have seen the light. We have given up the unnecessary burdens we carry.**

One: Authority has been assigned to the Wonderful Counselor. Peace and justice will prevail through eternity.

**All: We will leave judgment to God, whose equity we trust. We are free to rejoice in the beauty God reveals.**

One: Worship the One who breaks yokes and frees us. Great is our God, and greatly to be praised.

**All: Let the heavens be glad, and let earth rejoice. We are ready to declare God's marvelous works.**

\*Opening Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (all vs.) p.278

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: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (vs. 1 only) p.272

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.

Choir Cantata: "The Promise of a King"

\*Presentation of the Offering 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

Special Music: "O Holy Night" by Caleb-Hunter Buck

\*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**

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.

**Please join us on tomorrow, Christmas Day** at our 10:15 a.m. Worship. There will not be any Sunday School on December 25.

**Next Sunday**, January 1 we will have 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and 10:15 a.m. Worship. See you then!