

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 3, 2023

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

First Sunday of Advent (Hope)
"Quakering Mountains...Awesome Deeds"

Prelude: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Picardy

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Isaiah 64)

Leader: Tear open the heavens and bring forth your presence. We watch and we wait for the glory to come.

All: We gather with hope, remembering your mercy. Lead us in love; shine from above.

Leader: Awaken the earth, enflame and en flesh. We watch and we wait for what's birthing ahead.

All: We gather with hope, remembering your justice. Revive us, restore us; shine from above.

Leader: Make us your love wave to broaden your reach. We watch and we wait for your deeds to appear.

All: We gather with hope, remembering your handiwork. Make us, mold us; shine from above.

*Opening Hymn: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

insert

Lighting of the Hope Candle

This Sunday, many across the globe center on "Hope." Hope is assertive, even aggressive at times. Hope fueled the prophet to call upon God to tear open the heavens and shake the mountains so that we would all tremble, remembering that there is a God, because the world has forgotten. But we have not. We cling to this hope that interrupts and shakes our lives out of monotony, out of complacency, and out of despair. We light this candle, a spark of flame that ignites a rebellion of hope against empire, against hate,

against fear. This is the fire that kindles inside of us and will not die. Let us light this candle of hope as we remember the God-with-us and the hope within us.

(Light the first Candle)

Prayer: God of Hope, our world has grown cold with despair, with hopelessness, with weariness and dread. Alight in us the fire of Your Spirit, a reminder that death never has the final word, so we might pursue justice and live into Your ways and become living hope in a world that desperately needs it. Amen.

Music on Screen: "You Are My Strength" Hillsong
(sing along as you feel comfortable)

Invocation

One: Let us pray: El Shaddai – God of the mountains who quake at your presence,

Many: You meet us in our memory of you. We'd invite you to come down and dwell among us, Yet we know that you are already and always with us—Emmanuel, in our collective memory from ages past—God beside us, God before us, God behind us, and God within us.

One: We worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" p.250

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 p.643

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

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

Offertory: "Come Thou Redeemer" Buxtehude

* 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 and Thanksgiving (unison)

For the wondrous ways this offering will breathe hope into community, we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission, we dedicate these gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy. Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" Matthews

The Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

p.17

*Closing Hymn: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

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*Benediction

Go forth with the gift of hope, Remembering God's deeds, Trusting God's presence, And Becoming God's handiwork. May God's face shine on us now and forever, Amen.

*The Sung Benediction

The Lord Whom we love, Whom we worship and Adore, We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us Together And He it is who sends us apart. To be God's people, be God's people. Amen.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

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**Quakering Mountains...Awesome Deeds: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent Year B** was written by The Rev. Mia M. McClain, Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She is an ordained UCC minister.

**Please be seated for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Cemetery Association.**

**We thank the Martucci Family for preparing Communion and lighting our Advent Candle today.**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are sponsored by 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 GREETERS** are Roger and Mishelle Miller.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Ruthann Mutchler.

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



Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.

December Soup is **Ground Beef Vegetable** and will be sold by the quart along with **Ham and Cheese Sandwiches**. Order forms can be found at the entrances to the Church or in your pew and must be received by **TODAY**. Orders may be placed in the Offering Plate, call Annie or the Church office, or email the church office. Pick up will be on Thursday, December 14 in our downstairs social hall between 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**White Gifts** will be collected for the young adults (ages 10-21) at Bethany Ministries **Next Sunday, December 10 at our 10:15 a.m.** Worship Service. Please wrap your gift in white tissue paper only or not at all. Bethany can only use NEW items to give to the students living there. This has always been a very meaningful and wonderful part of our Advent celebration. See your newsletter for their Wish List.

**Pick Up Your Ordered Fruit/Nut Roll** next Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. in the downstairs Social Room.

**Announcing: Advent Bible Study** - 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings in Advent, Dec. 10, 17, 24, and Epiphany lesson on Jan. 7! Bring your Bible. We will meet in the Lower Social Hall. All Welcome. No previous Bible Study experience necessary!

**ATF Room help is needed tomorrow, December 4** for sorting and storing. If you would like to help come anytime, we will be at the Church by 10:00 a.m. ATF is still looking for a sturdy clothing rack. Thank you! If you know anyone that could use a Wedding Gown, ATF has a very pretty one, brand new with tags still on, size 14. See Millie.

**Don't Forget** – this Saturday, December 9 is our All Church Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m. at the Superior Restaurant in Emmaus. Next Brunch will be after Worship on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Merc in Emmaus.

## **Week of December 3-9, 2023:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from  
10am-3pm. Other times by appointment.

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm  
(please call before coming)

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Bell Choir – Thursday @ 6:30pm

Choir Practice – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Christmas Party – Saturday @ 5pm @ Superior Restaurant

**Next Sunday** – 9:00am Sunday School

9:00am Bible Study

9:00am-12:30pm Pick up Fruit/Nut Roll

10:15am Worship, White Gifts

## **Total Offerings from November 26, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$996.25

Window Fund: \$92.00

Mission: \$25.00

Heat: \$55.00

Parking Lot: \$0

Cemetery: \$45.00

Attendance: 49