

**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 10, 2023

10:15 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)**

**"Withering Grace...Standing Word"**

Prelude: "How Beautiful Are The Feet of Them"

Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (Inspired by Isaiah 40)

Leader: A voice cries out declaring God's presence. Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

**All: We come preparing the way of the Lord. Together, we actively wait for God's peace.**

Leader: A voice cries out declaring God's equity. Valleys shall be lifted and Hills be made low.

**All: We come to make straight in the desert a highway. Together, we're pressing toward God's peace.**

Leader: A voice cries out declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

**All: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings. Together, we carry out God's peace.**

\*Opening Hymn: "It Is Well with My Soul"

p.705

Lighting of the Peace Candle

Celebrant: Each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we reflect on a theme that centers us as we wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed. This Sunday, we center on "Peace."

Hope is assertive, but peace is subversive. The psalmist reminds us in Psalm 34:14 that we must seek peace and pursue it. We must search for it like a treasure hidden in a field, like it is the most precious, fragile thing we can

imagine. But peace doesn't live only in dreams. Peace whispers into our ear that there is always another way, another path from rage and hate and fear. Peace calls us to have patience, but to not give up. Peace is not passive, but always lurking, just waiting for us to recognize we can grasp it. We light this candle as a reminder that peace is something we must pursue, for we follow the Prince of Peace.

(Light the second Candle)

Leader: Let us Pray together: **God of Peace, our world is full of angry voices calling for vengeance, calling for retribution masked as justice, calling for destruction as a lie for peace. But we know the true peace that comes from You is available for us all, if we seek it. If we follow You. May peace light our way in this world that desperately needs it. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Into My Heart" (sing 2 times) insert

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 p.619

Reflection

Bringing Forth the White Gifts Singing: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" p.245

Invitation to Generosity

We believe in the God of 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.

Offertory: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" Blake

\* 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 and Thanksgiving (unison)

**We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts usher peace into this world and signal to the people that God is with us. Amen.**

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 heaven. Give us this day our**

**daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For Thine is  
the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" insert

\*Benediction (Inspired by Psalm 85)

Send us forth to become the peace we wish to see in this world  
And as we go, May Steadfast love and faithfulness meet  
May Righteousness and peace embrace  
May Faithfulness spring up from the ground  
And May righteousness look down from the sky. Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Helmore

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**Withering Grace...Standing Word: Service Prayers for the Second 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.

**We thank Kathy and Dan Latshaw for lighting our Advent Candle today.**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Richard Yeakel in loving  
memory of his husband, Dick.

**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 GREETERS** are John and Nancy Civitts.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Cheryl Martucci.

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.

**Pick Up Your Ordered Fruit/Nut Roll downstairs after Worship if you haven't already done so.**

**Announcing: Advent Bible Study** - 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings in Advent, Dec. 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!

Our **Christmas Eve Services** will be 10:15 a.m. Candles, Carols, Choir and Communion Worship; 7:30 p.m. will begin with the Bell Choir at 7 p.m., Candles, Carols, Choir and Candlelight Worship. Fire Police will be with us at 6:45 p.m. to help guest cross the street from the parking lot. Please join us!

**AFT** 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.

**ATF is asking for everyone to please hold your donations till February. Thank you!**

**Don't Forget** – Pick up your Soup/Sandwiches order on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm in our downstairs Social Room.

### **Week of December 10-16, 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)

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Pick Up Soup & Sandwiches – Thursday from 4-6pm

Bell Choir – Thursday @ 6:30pm

Choir Practice – Thursday @ 7:30pm

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

9:00am Bible Study

9:45am Third Sunday Treats

10:15am Worship, Loose offering goes toward

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Brunch after Worship at the Merc

**Total Offerings from December 3, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$2,264.00

Window Fund: \$360.00

Mission: \$25.00

Communion: \$62.00

Electric: \$25.00

Parking Lot: \$45.00

Cemetery: \$5.00

Attendance: 50