

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, 2023

7:30 p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Christmas Eve
"Salvation"

7:00 p.m. Prelude: Bell Choir and Organ Selections

7:30 p.m. Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles and The Advent Wreath

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: Clouds and thick darkness surround God. His throne is built on
righteousness and justice.

Many: Fire proceeds before him, burning up his enemies on every side.

(Light the Christ candle)

One: His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees it and trembles!

**Many: The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of
the whole world!**

One: Heaven has proclaimed God's righteousness, and all nations have seen
his glory.

*Opening Hymn: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

p.277

Invocation (unison)

**Emmanuel, we bow in adoration and wonder that you, the Most High,
Everlasting Counselor, Prince of Peace, choose to dwell among us. You
have come in the cloud, in flesh, and in Spirit. May your Holy Love
descend upon us anew as we remember Christ Jesus, both Savior and
Friend, has joined us in the journey. Encourage us to be faithful
witnesses of your hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Amen.**

Musical Selection: "O Holy Night" by David Carlson and Jessica Yothers

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

p.889

Reflection

*Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

p.258

Invitation to Generosity

Titus 3:4-8 reminds us, 4 But "when God our savior's kindness and love appeared, 5 he saved us because of his mercy, not because of righteous things we had done. He did it through the washing of new birth and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 which God poured out upon us generously through Jesus Christ our savior. 7 So, since we have been made righteous by his grace, we can inherit the hope for eternal life." 8 This saying is reliable. And I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God might give careful attention to doing good. These things are good and useful for everyone. May we pour out our thanksgiving for the gift of Christ among us with generous giving to continue to put flesh on joy, peace, hope, and love.

Offertory

* 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)

Generous God, receive these gifts. We pray that you magnify them for your glory and the needs of your creation. Through our generosity, may no one have to search for compassion or care, may all know the abiding hope of community, and may our world be re-birthed in your kingdom. Amen.

Choir Anthem: "Christmas Joy Medley"

*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

*Hymn: "What Child Is This?" (verse 1 only)

p.281

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)

Pastoral Blessing and Extinguishing of Candles

*Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World!" p.270

*Benediction: "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

To make music in the heart.

Go in hope, peace, joy, and love...to spread the beauty of Christmas. Amen.

Sharing the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christ as you go....Share words of peace or Merry Christmas with those around you as you leave.

Blessings to all as we keep Jesus in our hearts for this new year ahead.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude

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**Salvation: Service Prayers for Christmas Eve** was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

**TONIGHT'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in memory of Dorothy and Ronald Richards sponsored by the Richards-Brown Family.

**TONIGHT'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Paula Lilly in honor of her Children and Grandchildren.

**TONIGHT'S GREETERS** are Marvin and Barbara Kerchner.

**TONIGHT'S LITURGIST** is Kathy Latshaw.

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.

**Epiphany Lesson Bible Study** - 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Sunday morning, Jan. 7, 2024! Bring your Bible. We will meet in the Lower Social Hall. All Welcome. No previous Bible Study experience necessary!

**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. The next ATF Giveaway will be on Monday, January 8 from 4-6pm and Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm.

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

**January Soup of the Month** – Social and Aid will be making Chili in January. Order forms can be found in your bulletin. Chili is \$8.00/quart and Ham and Cheese Sandwiches are \$5.00. Orders must be placed by January 7, 2024 and pick up will be on Thursday, January 18, 2024 between 4-6 p.m. in the lower social hall.

December 25, 2023 until January 2, 2024. If you need Pastoral Assistance please call the church office or Kathy Latshaw.

This Christmas season, **the Food Panty** provided \$25 gift cards for the children of our client families. In prior years we asked for gift cards to be donated by civic groups and local churches but, due to timing and logistics, we needed to purchase the cards upfront this year. We are asking for anyone interested to make a donation, of any dollar amount to help defray the costs. Donations so far have covered about 15% of our outlay for what has turned out to be a record number of children. If you are interested in contributing, please consider any of the following options:

- Add it as a special item on your offering envelope
- Provide a check or cash to Robin
- Send a check to  
Zionsville Area Food Pantry  
PO Box 56  
Old Zionsville PA 18068

As all cards have already been purchased, no additional cards are needed. Thank you in advance for any contribution you may make.

**Next Sunday, December 31, 2023 – No Sunday School**

10:15am Worship – Carol Sing, Led by our Lay Leadership with music by Beth Eck and a special presentation by Neil Harrison, “Hiking in Switzerland”. You won’t want to miss this with a surprise ending!