

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

David Carlson

December 15, 2024

**those who are able may stand*

Pastor

Organist

10:15 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent
"Again...Rejoice"

Prelude: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Redner

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

Light the third candle (pink/rose) of the Advent wreath.

Sing the Advent song with the video - "Now Unto The King Eternal"

Call to Worship

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: We seek time to embrace the joy.

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: We create opportunities to embody joy.

One: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

Many: Sing songs that announce joy.

Invocation (unison)

Holy Convenor of the Ages, As the memories of happiness sweep back into our minds, we delight in the Advent blessing of joy. Such blissfulness turns our spirits from the lengthened nights to God's Divine Light which will be arriving soon. Like the saints of yesteryear, we celebrate together, rejoicing in the season, and knowing the best is yet to come. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(verse 3 only)

p.245

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Loving God, Creator of Wonder and Delight,

Many: We have fallen into the crevices of worry. We have allowed the preoccupation of what was said in the past and will happen in the future to distract us from embodying joy in the present. Clear a pathway to our souls so that we can find levity and delight again. May we find ways from the chasms of concern to the daylight of hopefulness. Amen.

Words of Grace

The blessedness of God's grace will fill our hearts with a peace-filled joy as we move about this season and follow the light ahead. Amen.

*Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

p.271

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:7-18

p.891

Reflection

Invitation to Generosity

Embracing radical joy transforms our spirits, creating a gentle energy within us. We are renewed, and we sense God's call more clearly. In seeking God's message, we know how to joyfully share our talents, treasures, and time, bringing more peace and comfort into our world.

Offertory: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

*Presentation of 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 Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)
God of Holy Darkness and Returning Light, We give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love. We give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with peace. We give of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world with hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, creating your Realm here on earth. 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 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

*Closing Hymn: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" p.251

*Benediction
Bless our dusty roads renewed by hope.
Bless our opening hearts renewed by peace.
Bless our sunny skies renewed by joy.
God's love enriches us as we continue on this season's journey.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Shout the Glad Tidings" Avison



Again...Rejoice: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are sponsored by Paula Lilly in memory of parents, Vincent and Emma Christman and Howard and Helen Lilly.

TODAY'S BULLETIN is sponsored by Mina Reinhard in loving memory of Gene and Timothy Reinhard.

TODAY'S GREETERS are Randy and Sharon Trexler.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Alyson Miller.

We thank Jan and Dan Strobel for Lighting our Third Advent Candle today.

All loose offering today will go to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
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.

When parking in the side lot next to the church, please be aware that spaces are not exactly spaced out for easy exit. Please be careful when backing up, especially if someone is parked in the handicapped spots along the lawn of the parsonage. Thanks.



Greeters and Liturgist Needed. If you would like to get on our schedule to help in our Worship Services by being a Greeter or Liturgist please contact the church office. Email and phone number are on front page or put a note in the Secretary's mailbox. Thank you.

Don't forget to pick up your ordered Soup and/or Sandwiches on Thursday, December 19 between 3-5:30pm in the downstairs social room. Thank you.

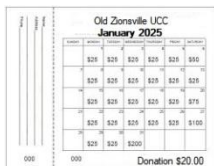
All Things Free Room (ATF) next Sort and Store will be Monday, December 16 at 10:00am. If you can help or have any questions, call or text Millie Kohler. Thank you for your help with this giving ministry.

~~**Share the Warmth** collection will run through January. Items to warm someone from the inside to support local food programs: Soup, Hot Chocolate, Tea Bags or Coffee (no coffee beans) can be dropped in the box outside of Pastor Lori's office. Thank you.~~

Looking for a Christmas present for that special someone? We have interactive **Bibles** for you to purchase. This Bible has an interactive feature that can work with your cell phone, iPad or other electronic device. The cost is **\$16 each**. By setting it up with your device, the program can actually "read scripture to you." So for someone who drives lots or prefers to listen to the Holy Word, this could be very appealing. By using the app it will instantly access study notes, devotionals from famous authors, interactive maps, teaching videos and worship music. There are two cover styles: black and floral, they are zipper case

protected, and are very small - about the size of your hand. Print is small, but these other features bring the Bible to life in a whole new way. See Pastor Lori for more information.

Wooden Crosses are available for sale for \$30. Or you can just order an attachment for the one you have already purchased. Christmas arrangements are now being put together for \$15. Order yours today. See Richard Yeakel or Pastor Lori. Proceeds go to our Building Fund.



Need a **holiday gift**? We are selling lottery number calendars during the month of December for January 2025. Each calendar costs \$20 and the evening three number drawing of the day wins! A portion of the proceeds goes to our Mission offering (OCWM). Calendars are available any Sunday. Please see Cheryl Martucci or Amber Kriebel to get yours.

Prayer List

Shirley & Ed, Christoph, Monica, Pat, Our Scout Troop, Jan, Larry, Maynard, Betsy, Mike, James, Melissa, Trisha, Ruth, Brad, Harrison Family, Kim & Family, Jane, John, Heater Family, Linda & Family, Carolyn, Cindy, Candy, Shari, Sue, LeRoy, Cameron, Frank, Dan Strobel Family, Nishnic Family, Miriam, Chris, Dolly, Belinda, John, Stephanie, Scott, Angela

Military - Drew Stahler Nate Yeakel Chanellor Yenser

Week of December 15, 2024:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesdays from 10am-3pm except Wednesday, December 25th. She will be in her office on Monday, December 30th from 10am-3pm. Other times by appointment.

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

Brenda will be on vacation the week of December 23.

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

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Consistory – Tuesday @ 7pm

Choir – Wednesday @ 7:30pm

Soup & Sandwich Pick Ups – Thursday from 3-5:30pm

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Worship, Baptism

Christmas Eve Services – 3:00 p.m. Communion, Candles and Carols
7:30 p.m. Choir, Candles and Carols

Total Offerings from December 8:

General Offerings: \$2168.00

Window Fund: \$95.00

Mission: \$105.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$105.00

Cemetery: \$10.00

Attendance: 62