

**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 22, 2024

*\*those who are able may stand*

Pastor

Organist

10:15 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, Old Zionsville, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

*Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*

*Sing the whole medley that includes the songs from the past three weeks.  
(words on screen)*

Call to Worship

One: Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship,

**Many: For in the Body of Christ we belong.**

One: Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,

**Many: For in the Body of Christ we find peace.**

One: Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,

**Many: For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.**

Invocation (unison)

**Holy Tapestry of Bliss, The patches of memories are stitched together as we tell our stories with you, Loving God. We cherish the individual pieces of our diverse stories and the beauty of narratives sewed together. We honor the ways these Holy Threads have connected us. May the creation from our connections be like a quilt to our souls, keeping us warm in this season of reflection. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" p.245  
(verse 4 only)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Divine Light and Love,

**Many: We have been weighed down by the heaviness of the season, the sorrows carried from the past, and the expectations of the present and future. We hide in shadows instead of the light. We embrace individualism instead of basking in the joy of community love. Create a new path in our hearts so that we can find levity and grace. Reconnect us with the Body of Christ instead of the distressing comfort of spiritual solitude. Amen**

Words of Grace

The grace of God infinitely streams into our lives, drawing us from the shadows into the light, and reconnecting us again with our neighbors. May the mercy of our Creator help us rediscover the Spirit of Joy in our midst.

\*Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (verse 1 only) p.240

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-45 p.888

Reflection

Sacrament of Baptism (see insert)

Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" (see insert)

Invitation to Generosity

We reconnect in this space and time to seek God's call for our lives and our congregations. As part of our spiritual journeys, we share our

treasures, time, and talents, bringing God's light into our world. We do not give to impress God or share offerings because of our shame. Instead, we bring our offerings to celebrate the Body of Christ.

Offertory:

\*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 All Joy, Holy Hope, We delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbors. 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: "Love Has Come!" (verses 1 & 3) p.256

\*Benediction

One: As we seek the ways of God and our Creator's intentions for our lives,

**Many: May the Spirit of God enliven us as we love boldly,**

One: May the Spirit of God strengthen us as we create paths of peace.

**Many: May the Spirit of God awaken us as we love generously and widely.**

One: A season of birth is imminent, for God's love is with us as we seek our renewal of life.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude:



**Abolish to Establish: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C** was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.

**Join us on Christmas Eve! Service of Communion, Candles and Carols at 3 p.m. and Service of Choir, Candles, Carols at 7:30 p.m. Merry Christmas!**

**Next Sunday, Dec. 29, No Sunday School. Hymn Sing worship at 10:15 a.m.**

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

**TODAY'S BULLETIN** is sponsored by Paula Lilly in honor of her Children and Grandchildren.

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Chris Schell.

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

**We thank Larry and Angela Stahler for Lighting our Fourth Advent Candle today.**

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.

**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.

**January Soup & Sandwich** – Social and Aid Committee will be making Beef Vegetable Soup for the month of January to order along with their Ham & Cheese Sandwiches. Orders forms can be found at the entrances to the Church and/or in your pew. Orders must be received by Sunday, January 12.

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)

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

**Next Sunday, December 29 – No Sunday School**  
10:15am Worship, Hymn Sing  
Happy New Year!

**Total Offerings from December 15:**

General Offerings: \$.00

Window Fund: \$.00

Mission: \$.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$.00

Cemetery: \$.00

Attendance: