

WELCOME TO
Old Zionsville United Church of Christ
5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

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Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-343

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

December 24, 2024

3:00 p.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Prelude: "He Is Born, the Holy Child"

Paxton

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath

Reader One: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near.

Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.

Call to Worship

One: Lift up your heads, O gates!

Many: And be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in!

*Opening Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" p.249

The Christmas Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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: "Away in a Manger" p.262

Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12 p.642

Reflection (Scripture: Luke 2:8-20) p.889

*Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" p.278

Call to the Offering

Offertory: "O Holy Night" Adam

*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 Thanksgiving (unison)

God of Christmas Love, we give you thanks for the opportunity to share our gifts with you this evening as you have given us the greatest gift of all in Your Son and Our Savior, The Babe of Bethlehem. Receive and Multiply these gifts unto your glory as we bless your Holy Name. Amen.

The Service of Holy Communion

The elements are shared and we partake together

*Hymn: "O Holy Night!" (verse 1 only) p.285

Lighting of Candles

Leader: We come to a special part of today's service.

As Christ comes bringing the light of God's love, we light our individual candles to signify our individual and collective commitment to live as Christ's faithful in the world.

*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!" (words on screen)

Leader: One candle is but a flicker, but together, we create a bright flame of Christ's light in the world. Consider the beauty of our lights shining together. Jesus is the light of the world! Jesus is the hope of all our tomorrows! May we be witnesses of the light Christ brings, **Amen.**

As you gently extinguish your candle, carry the light of Jesus' love with you.

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

*Benediction

*Extinguishing of Candles

*Postlude: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Smart

**We welcome all who are worshipping with us this afternoon and pray that you will find Christ in your heart this year!
Merry Christmas!**

TODAY'S GREETERS are members of Consistory.

Restrooms are available on the main floor of the Church & downstairs. We have Bulletin Magnifier Sheets if needed. They can be found on the sound system.