

**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, 2024

7:30 p.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Christmas Eve**

"Keeping Watch"

Prelude: "He Is Born, the Holy Child"

Paxton

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles and the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: The people have walked in the shadows. The light now shines.

**Many: Rejoice and sing a new song of great joy!**

One: Nations war against nations and among themselves. Yet, the light of peace, justice, and love illuminates the path of the righteous remnant.

**Many: Rejoice and declare the glory of God in the land of the living.**

One: Creation groans with the strain of use, misuse, and neglect. Yet, the light of resilience will not be dimmed on the earth.

**Many: Rejoice and witness the seas roar, the land rest, and the wind breathe. Rejoice for the glory comes and God is with us!**

Invocation (unison)

**Emmanuel, you brought worlds into being. Your word goes forward with creative and redemptive power. Keep watch over your people assembled today as we lift our voices and our beings in praise, celebration, remembrance, and worship of you. Amen.**

\*Christmas Carol: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"  
(verses 1 & 2)

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Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

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Reflection

\*Christmas Carol: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

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### Invitation to Generosity

The generous spirit pays attention to unmet needs within and beyond our community. When we give from our resources of time, talent, and treasure, our generosity becomes enfolded, shows up, and makes love of God and neighbor real. Rooted in the wells of abundance and God's blessed provision, let us be stewards participating in the well-being and flourishing of all.

Offertory: "O Holy Night"

Adam

\*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)

**Bountiful God, receive these gifts, extend their reach, and magnify their impact for your glory and for your creation. Amen.**

### Choir Anthems

\*The Christmas Prayer and 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**

Leader: We come to a special part of tonight'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)

*(When you are ready, extinguish your candle)*

\*Closing Carol: "Joy to the World!"

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\*Benediction

As you go, remember that you are a righteous branch charged to keep watch for the vulnerable and the marginalized embodying compassion for those humbled and in despair. May a new life of hope be born as we share the warmth of God's love and peace in the world.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

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

Smart



**Keeping Watch: Service Prayers for Christmas Eve/Day Year C** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

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

**TONIGHT'S GREETERS** are members of Consistory.

Restrooms are available on the main floor of the Church and downstairs. We have Bulletin Magnifier Sheets if needed. They 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.

**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.