

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 29, 2024

10:15 a.m.

**those who are able may stand*

Hymn Sing

“Wisdom, Years, Favor”

Prelude: “Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Mansfield

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles and the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: Praise God from the heights! The Holy One is transcendent, radiant, and glorious.

Many: Salvation, redemption, and liberation come from above and dwell among us.

One: Praise God from the earth! Emmanuel is humble, gracious, and near.

Many: Past, present, and future rests in the work of our hands in God’s hands.

One: Praise the name of God! I AM hears our cry, responds to our need, and still speaks to our spirits.

Many: Blessing, honor, and power belong to our God. Praise God!

Invocation (unison)

Wise and Eternal God, You are sovereign over all the earth. Your works declare your greatness. Make your wisdom known to us as we gather in your holy name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

p.258

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Holy God, you hold wisdom and knowledge beyond our ability to imagine or comprehend.

Many: Yet, you reveal yourself and the wonders of your creation to us. Regrettably, we allow the busyness of our lives, the distraction of our days, and the influences of the world to pull us from your revelation, presence, and hopes for us. Hold us accountable to your covenant so that as you are with us, we will be with you. Make us a righteous branch in the vineyard. In the name of Jesus and hope of restoration, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, trust that the grace of God has appeared, bringing new life to all. Receive the gifts of grace and mercy from the Compassion One who recognizes your repentance, comes to you in your weakness, offers strength for transformation, provides encouragement for repair, and grants forgiveness for sin.

*Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" p.250

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52 p.890

Reflection

Hymn: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (*verse 1 only*) p.267

"How Great Our Joy!" (*verse 1 only*) p.269

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice" (*verse 1 only*) p.273

"O Holy Night!" (*verse 3 only*) p.285

Invitation to Generosity

The blessings we receive—in wisdom, years, and favor—are meant to be shared. When we use these gifts to sustain the ministry of the church and respond to the needs of the community, we demonstrate the good news in the world. Let us give with boldness and boundless trust in the provision of the Creator of all.

Offertory: "There's a Song in the Air" Harrington

*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)

Lavish God, collect these offerings so that the blessings and favor you have given to us may be shared among our neighbors with trust, hope, and love. Amen.

*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: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

p.277

*Benediction

As you go, remember that you are a righteous branch
Blessed to be a blessing
Empowered to spread the good news of Jesus Christ
May a new life of joy be born as we share the warmth of God's love
and peace in the world.

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Postlude: "Joy to the World"

Handel

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*Wisdom, Years, Favor: Service Prayers for Christmas 1C* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** and **BULLETINS** are in hopes for a good New Year sponsored by Rick, Missy and Matthew Yenser.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Roger and Mishelle Miller.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Jane Bedell.

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.



**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.

Still some **Lottery Calendars** for the month of January evening drawing. Each calendar costs \$20 and a portion of the proceeds goes to our Mission offering (OCWM). 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.

Next **ATF (All Things Free) Giveaway** will be Monday, January 13 from 4-6pm and Saturday, January 18 from 10am-12pm. If you are able to help please let Millie Kohler know. Thank you.

**Week of December 29, 2024:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Monday from 10am-3pm.  
Other times by appointment.

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

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

Next Sunday – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship