

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

<u>Rev. Lori Esslinger</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
<u>David Carlson</u>	<u>Organist</u>
<u>December 24, 2025</u>	<u>7:00 pm</u>

**those who are able may stand*

Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm

Prelude: "Slumber Song" (Schumann)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Holy One, we give you thanks
for your presence among us
in Jesus, your Child,
born into a poor family.
Christ has entered our lives,
and embraced our hope and our struggle;
showing forth the power of your love
in healing, teaching and challenging (*light candle 1*)
the powers of the world that lead to death. (*light candle 2*)
With confidence in your faithfulness, (*light candle 3*)
we welcome your beloved Child in our midst. (*light candle 4*)

All: God be with us in the Light of Christ. (*light the Christ Candle*)

*Opening Hymn: "Let's Worship and Adore Him" page 247

Call to Worship (John 1)

In the beginning,
there was the Word;

**All: the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.**

The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Through the Word all things came into being....

All: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—

And the Word became flesh

and stayed for a little while among us;

All: we saw the Word's glory—

the favor and position of a Parent's only Child—

All: filled with grace, filled with truth.

ALL: Let us rejoice in the Word!

Invocation

O Word made Flesh,

You have come into our midst as light and wisdom,

desiring to be known to us in our lives

and to be found in the world around us.

Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts

to recognize you where you dwell

—in our midst—

Challenging, heartening, lighting the way

to truth, peace, justice. Amen

Choir Presentation: Carol of Christmas Part 1 cantata by John W. Peterson

Call to Offering

The Love of God is born new in the world

as often as we embody that love

in the works of compassion, peace and justice.

Let us offer our gifts in a spirit of generosity and hope.

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 Dedication (unison)

With these gifts, dear God,

accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts,

which rejoice in your goodness and love.

Let our gifts point to your presence in the world,

and further your dream for the world

through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

Choir Presentation: Carol of Christmas Part 2 cantata by John W. Peterson

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, forever. Amen

Lighting of Candles

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...

*Closing Hymn: "Silent Night"

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(take your time to meditate on the Holy Flame as Jesus comes into your heart. When you hear the words of the benediction, extinguish your candle.)

*"Joy to the World"

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Benediction

In the beginning, the Word;

the Word was in God's presence,

and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Through the Word all things came into being....

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light-

a Light that shines in the night,

a Light that the night has never overtaken.

Go forth to witness to the Light, to the Word,

to the Glory of God dwelling in us;

Go forth to live in grace and truth.

Thanks be to God!

Merry Christmas All!

Extinguishing of Altar and Advent Candles

Postlude: "On Christmas Night"

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The Light, the Word, the Glory of God, service prayers for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Team. Translation of John 1 is adapted from The Inclusive Bible © 2007, Priests for Equality.

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TODAY'S GREETERS are members of Consistory.

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

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.