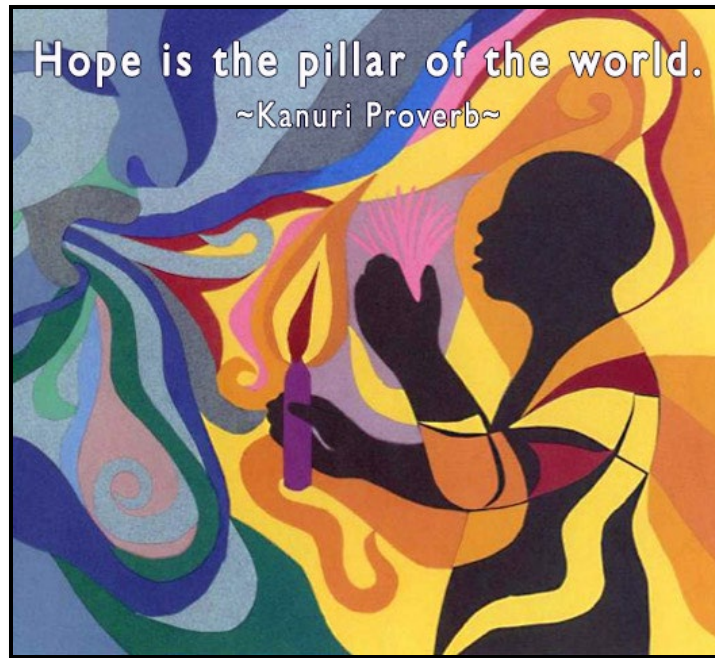


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29TH, 2020 @ 11 A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Hope ❄️ **Peace** ❄️ **Joy** ❄️ **Love** ❄️ **Christ**

WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of our Creator. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! Zion Reformed United Church of Christ has roots over 250 years in the making with visions of thriving long into the future. We invite you to consider making Zion Reformed UCC your church home if you haven't already and let us tell the story of Jesus and His love together!

Happy liturgical new year! Today is the first day of the church year, ushered in with the beginning of the Advent season, --four weeks of deep spiritual contemplation anticipating the celebration Christmas. Advent is from an old Latin phrase – ad venio, loosely translated "until the coming." It is a time for reflection during which we prepare for Christ's coming. In order to prepare herself for the coming of the Christ-child, the Church asked Christ's followers to use the four weeks prior to that to examine not so much their inner being – that would come in Lent – but the outer world. As disciples called to extend the reach of God's love most fully expressed through Jesus – Advent became the occasion to assess whether or not such love was evident. As we prepare for Christ's coming over the new few weeks, remaining true to this tradition, we will look for God's love evidenced in Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America and within our own community. Let us worship our God, the God of hope, even when all seems hopeless. Let us find God's love in our world today as we worship together in spirit, mind, and deed, and listen to the love of God.

WE GATHER

Gathering Music✦

"Wachet Auf"

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Prelude to Worship✦

"From Heaven High to Earth I Come"

WE PREPARE

↑Call to Worship

One: From the plains of the Serengeti to Victoria Falls, we await you, O God.
From the sands of the Kalahari to the Heights of Kilimanjaro,

All: We await you, O God.

One: We remember your people O God, enslaved and removed from their homeland.
Stripped of dignity, sold like common livestock, yet still found voice to sing your
praise.

All: We await you, O God.

One: We remember your people O God, robed in splendor, in Africa, the Caribbean,
and throughout the world, who with song and dance celebrate your presence in
their midst and proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**All: Let us, with them, proclaim the greatness of our God. Come, Lord
Jesus!**

Opening Prayer

Video Reflection

"We Are Not Alone" by the Nairobi Advent Ensemble Virtual Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a symbol of Hope. May Jesus, the Hope of the World, illumine us with the
light of God's love. Help us, Holy God, to remember our brothers and sisters throughout
the world who need the gift of Hope.

Chorale Response

"Jesus, Hope of the World"

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

Lector: Rae Smith

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalter Lesson

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (NRSV)

Responsive (congregational responses in bold)

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ² **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!** ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?** ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ **You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.** ⁷ **Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.** But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁸ **Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.** ¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Meditative Interlude[✦]

"O Come, O Come Emanuel"

Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things

taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Message

"In-Between Times"

Worship Video Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emanuel"

WE RESPOND

Blessing Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

All: O Faithful One, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen.

Our Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Contemplative Interlude✦

"Lift Up Your Heads"

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

Sending Forth (benediction)

African Benediction

One: All our problems,

All: We send to the cross of Christ!

One: All our difficulties,

All: We send to the cross of Christ!

One: All the works of evil and injustice,

All: We send to the cross of Christ!

One: All our hopes,

All: We set on the risen Christ!

Prelude to Service

"Hallelujah" (Chorus from Handel's "Messiah")

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Fill Us All With HOPE!

*Artwork by 9-year old Maria Vesprini of Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana
<https://todayscatholic.org/the-hope-of-advent/>

Activity Page Answer Key:

Follow the Directions:

"Jesus said, WATCH!"

Shade in the Shapes:

"The Son of Man will come in clouds with great power and glory."

Use the sign language code:

"As soon as the fig tree's twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ... Right at the door."

Fill in the remaining words:

"No one knows about that day or hour not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be guard! Be alert!"

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of November 30th to December 6th



Advent Bible Study

Our Advent Bible Study will be done as a mailing due to in-person services being cancelled due to the pandemic spiking and to give us time to get those interested in a later online study for Epiphany via Zoom versed on using the platform.

2021 Annual Budget

As we plan next year's budget, be sure to let the budget committee know of any items you are aware of for consideration to be included in it, so we are fully prepared for next year's expenses. Communication is key in planning so that we have as little unexpected expenses as possible.

Prayer Requests



Submit your prayer requests to the church office by phone at 301.739.7244 or email at zionrucc@myactv.net so we can pray for one another. The prayer list of names can be emailed or mailed to you upon request due to privacy concerns.

Helping Hands



Lector This Week (11/29): Rae Smith

Lector Next Week (12/6): Carroll Sager

If unable to serve during your designated week, please contact the church office by Wednesday of the week prior to service so a replacement can be found.

Records from Last Week

Sunday Worship Attendance: 16 online views.

Soup Kitchen Attendance: The Soup Kitchen served 32 thanksgiving meals this past Tuesday.

Please Remember

- ❖ PEACE face masks available by donation, see Becky Owens or contact the office.
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.
- ❖ Zion Book Club postponed until January.
- ❖ Volunteers to serve on our Search & Call Committee are needed. Contact the office to be a part of this committee.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK

Properties Committee Meeting

December 1st, 4:30pm

Soup Kitchen

December 1st, 5pm-6:15pm
Volunteers Welcome!

Service Workers

December 2nd, 10am

Sunday Worship

Advent 2 (Peace), December 6th at 11am, online only.
(Online at www.zionreformed.church/sermons)

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

4H Club Meeting

December 3rd, 4:30pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

Suspended until Further Notice



Variations On A Theme (The 4 Evangelists) by Grace Carol Bomer
<https://gracebomer.wordpress.com/20151225advent-incarnation-ii>

Who Are the Angels?

Global Ministries Mission Bulletin

Written by Judy Chan



An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2: 13

Just as the baby Jesus and his parents fled from King Herod's wrath, millions of refugees and asylum seekers around the world seek security and protection in a foreign land. In this season, we remember those who must flee their homeland because of threats of violence, persecution, and death. Who are the angels who will watch over their perilous journey? Where are the wise men and women who will thwart the evil powers?

Thousands of asylum seekers from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East live in Hong Kong. Many come from countries experiencing civil unrest, human rights abuse, military crackdowns, and war for longer than we can imagine. While most have little hope of mercy from the Hong Kong government, a network of Christians called the Hong Kong Refugee Ministry Group works together to serve refugees and asylum seekers. The Refugee Ministry Group plays a key role in providing friendship, improving services, advocating for fairer policies, and educating the public. As we experience again the story of Christmas, let us remember and pray for all those who desperately need our welcome and hospitality to survive.



Written by Judy Chan who serves with the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC). Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to the UCC special offering, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

www.globalministries.org/december_2020



DISCIPLES

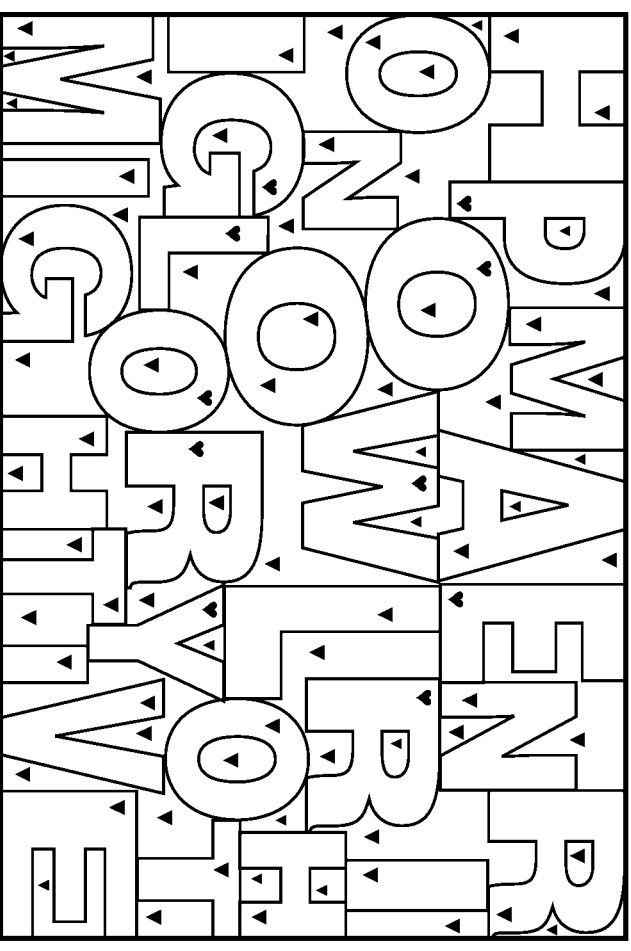
“ ”



Be Ready for Jesus

At the end of the age, people will see the Son of Man coming. How will He come?

Shade in all the shapes with a ♥ to find the answers.



“The Son of Man will come in clouds)
with great _____ and _____.”



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
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Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE

QZD167

Jesus said to learn a lesson
from the fig tree. What did He say?

Use this sign language code to fill in the blanks.

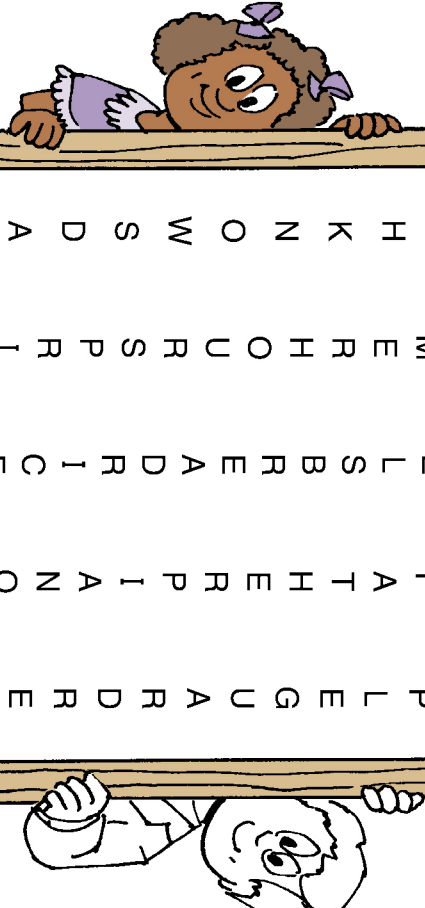
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

"

What else did Jesus say?

Circle words in each column as directed.

Fill in the remaining words below, top to bottom, left to right.



2 animals	2 seasons	2 foods	2 musical instruments	2 colors
F	S	A	S	P
I	U	N	O	R
S	M	G	N	R
H	E	E	F	L
K	R	L	A	E
N	H	S	T	G
O	O	B	H	U
W	R	R	E	A
S	P	A	R	R
D	R	D	P	E
A	I	R	I	D
Y	N	C	A	R
B	G	H	N	E
I	E	E	O	D
R	V	A	V	A
D	E	V	I	L
	N	E	O	E
	E	N	L	D
	N		I	A
			N	L
				E
				R

"No one _____ about that _____ or _____,

not _____ the _____ in _____,

nor the _____, but only the _____.

Be on _____! Be _____!"

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Gathering Music: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (WV-712) – Translated as "Awake the Voice Calls Us" – Composed by Johann Ludwig Krebs (approx. 1746), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [AllMusic](#) and [IMSLP](#).

Prelude to Worship: "From Heaven High to Earth I Come" (BWV 769) – Harmonizer, Johann S. Bach (1685-1750), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Vom Himmel Hoch," and lyrics by Martin Luther (1535), ©Public Domain. Translated by Roland H. Bainton (1948), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](#), [IMSLP](#), and [Wikipedia](#).

Video Reflection: "We Are Not Alone," performed by the Nairobi Advent Ensemble Virtual Choir. *Source(s): [YouTube](#).

Chorale Response: "Jesus, Hope of the World," performed by The Chapel of St. Ignatius Choir. *Source(s): [YouTube](#) (audio) and [YouTube](#) (imagery).

Meditative Interlude: "O Come, O Come Emanuel" – Lyrics: 12th century Latin chant, ©Public Domain. Translated by J.M. Neale (1851) and Henry Sloane Coffin (1916), ©Public Domain. Lyrics altered by The New Century Hymnal, ©1995 by The Pilgrims Press. Tune, "Veni Emanuel," a 15th century French Processional, ©Public Domain. Adapted by Thomas Helmore (1854), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [The New Century Hymnal](#), song# 116.

Worship Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emanuel," performed by Sovereign Grace. *Source(s): [YouTube](#).

Contemplative Interlude: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" – Lyrics by Georg Weissel (1641), ©Public Domain. Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1865), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Truro" by Thomas Williams and Charles Burney (1789), ©Public Domain. Lyrics altered by The New Century Hymnal, ©1995 by The Pilgrims Press. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [The New Century Hymnal](#), song# 117.

Prelude to Service: "Hallelujah" Chorus from Handel's "Messiah" (BWV 56) – Composed by George Frideric Handel (1741), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Wikipedia](#).

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