

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6TH, 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!

Last week, we focused on the continent of Africa with the Advent theme of hope. This week we continue our Advent journey around the world, focusing on the continent of Europe and the Advent theme of peace. As we look at peace on earth as stewards of the faith, may we remember to offer comfort to weary spirits after a year of pain and loss, remembering God's tender care for each of us. May the glow of peace remind us of God's presence in our lives as we bask in the warmth of the Light of Peace which leads us to God's justice and joy in the service of love.

Let us worship our God, the God of Peace, even when all seems disrupted. Let us cling to the peace of God, finding comfort, even though we are weary and tired. Mark

WE GATHER

Gathering Music✦

"Prelude in E-Minor and Fugue in G-Minor"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"In Sweet Rejoicing"

WE PREPARE

Call to Worship

One: In the Name of the Blessed and Holy Trinity, One God; now and forever.

(Some form of Trinitarian Greeting starts every German service. I prefer the Orthodox formulation for its gender neutrality.)

All: Amen.

One: Out of Zion Breaks forth the beautiful splendor of God.

All: Our God comes and is not silent!

Lighting the Advent Candle

Story of Peace

Carroll Sager

One: We light this candle as a symbol of Peace. In this Advent season we wait with joy the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, who comes to show us the way of peace. *[The Second candle is lit]*

All: Eternal God, you have begun a new creation in Christ, in which love and justice dwell. We wait with joy and hope that you will complete it and ask with confidence: Your kingdom come. Glory to you forever.

Hymn Response

"Peace in Christ"

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)

Lector: Carroll Sager

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every

mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Meditative Interlude✧

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Message

“Preparing the Way”

Contemplative Interlude✧

“The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore”

WE RESPOND

Offertory Prayer of Dedication

All: 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.

Sacrament of Communion

One: In this season of expectant waiting, we are invited to Christ's table. Coming to the Table is a where we experience the grace of God, and it is open and available to all. God only asks that we bring a sincere heart. So, open your hearts – and come!

All: Joy to the World!

One: Out of the wilderness a voice calls out. Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of love. Prepare the way of peace. The Christ child was born in the midst of darkness. The waiting is over. May Christ be born today in your heart.

All: A voice is crying out: "Clear the Lord's way in the desert! Make straight a highway in the wilderness for our God!"

One: You promised the coming of an anointed one, who would lead the people to peace and righteousness. You promised that the descendant of David would rule forever. You promised that out of Bethlehem would come the Prince of Peace. You promised the coming of your Kingdom, when "swords would be beaten into plows, and spears into pruning hooks."

All: But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

One: John the Baptist came, telling the people to "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. And so now we come, having confessed our sins, searching for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us with expectant grace. We come to be transformed by what has already come and waiting with hope for what is to come. We deck our halls with joy, but it is our hearts that truly matter.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord in our world. Prepare the way of the Lord in our communities. Prepare the way of the Lord in our churches. Prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts.

One: And so, in hopeful anticipation, we give thanks to you, God of Creation, God of Abraham and Sarah, God of salvation, God of the Law, God of King David,

God of the Prophets, God of hope and deliverance, God of John, and God of us all.

All: Holy are you, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ.

One: Who is the One to whom John pointed in the wilderness.

All: Holy are you, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ.

One: Who was born to us in a manger, for there was no room in the inn.

All: Holy are you, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ.

One: Who came to show us the way to your love. He proclaimed good news to the poor. He restored the sight to the blind. He called the children to his side, taught the women, ate with sinners, and called out the religious leaders blinded by the letter of the Law.

All: Holy are you, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ.

One: Who was betrayed by those who loved him. Who was persecuted by those who feared him. Who was crucified by those who thought that his death would be the end of him.

All: Holy are you, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ.

One: Who, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

All: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

One: And when the supper was over, took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said:

All: Drink from this, all of you. This is God's new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

One: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make us a Christmas people, secure in what has come, and hopeful for what is yet to be. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Keep us vigilant in our

Advent waiting until Christ comes and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all
honor and glory is yours, Source of all Blessings, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup✦

"Communion Medley"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Thank you, God, for coming down home among us in this holy meal.
Send us by your Spirit to hear the cries of others who long for your
coming and join them in your work that makes all things new;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray...**

Prayer of Our Savior

**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.**

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

Sending Forth (benediction)

Prelude to Service✦

"Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Peace on Earth

Art by John Stuart of stushieart.com

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of December 7th to December 13th



Consistory Elections

Are you willing to serve on the consistory? Nominations are still needed for Vice President, Secretary, Deacons, and Elders. Let Darlene know if you are willing to help guide Zion over the course of the next term. Due to suspension of in-person services, elections will be done by a combination of online and by mail. Watch for more info as it becomes available.

Advent Bible Study

Our Advent Bible Study by mail continues. If you aren't receiving your weekly study by mail let Darlene know in the front office.

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 (12/6): Carroll Sager

Lector Next Week (12/13): Barb Hendershot

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: 21 online views.

Soup Kitchen Attendance: The Soup Kitchen served 30 meals this past Tuesday.

Please Remember

- ❖ Search & Call Committee members needed, contact the office if interested.
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.
- ❖ Zion Book Club postponed until January.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK

Consistory Meeting

December 7th, 7pm

Soup Kitchen

December 8th, 5pm-6:15pm
Volunteers Welcome!

Sunday Worship

Advent 3 (Joy), December 13th at 11am, online only.
(Online at www.zionreformed.church/sermons)

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

4H Club Meeting

December 10th, 4:30pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

Suspended until Further Notice



May Christmas Peace Follow You Throughout the Year in Christ Jesus!

Christmas Alert 2020

Global Ministries * Middle East & Europe



This year the Christmas Alert shed light on the importance of restoring a new hope for Palestine amidst the new happenings worldwide that are affecting Palestine. We need new light and hope to come from the hearts of all believers in the Christmas message to encourage churches around the world to act!



"He was born in Bethlehem, humble and poor. He had no place in people's homes. With his birth a new peace was born on earth, and the angels sang in our sky their new message: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth" (Luke 14: 2). Christmas is a new light for humankind to guide "our feet to the way of peace." In fact, much peace entered humanity and filled the hearts of individuals and people's. Love appeared. "The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." (Romans 5:5). Every human being became able to see in oneself, and in his/her brother and sister, the image of God. The light of God filled the minds and hearts of many. But the opposite also remained true. Until now, the relationship between many in humanity remains a relation of war, death and hatred. In this Holy Land also, where the light of Christmas shone, where the prophets prophesied, where God spoke and sent God's light, Cain still kills his brother Abel. Many in our land are still in the old darkness, which generates injustice, blindness and prevents one people from seeing the image of God in the other people. Many, failing to see the image of God in the other, turn the other into an enemy and themselves into killers of their brothers and sisters."

Let us all together spread the message of Palestinian Christians around the world! Read the entire Kairos Palestine Christmas Alert 2020 at <https://kairospalestine.ps/images/kairos-palestine-christmas-alert-2020.pdf>.

Activity Page Answer Key:

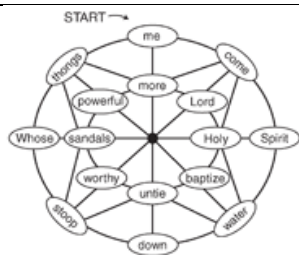
Unscramble the hidden letters:

The book of Isaiah the prophet.



Use the sign language code:

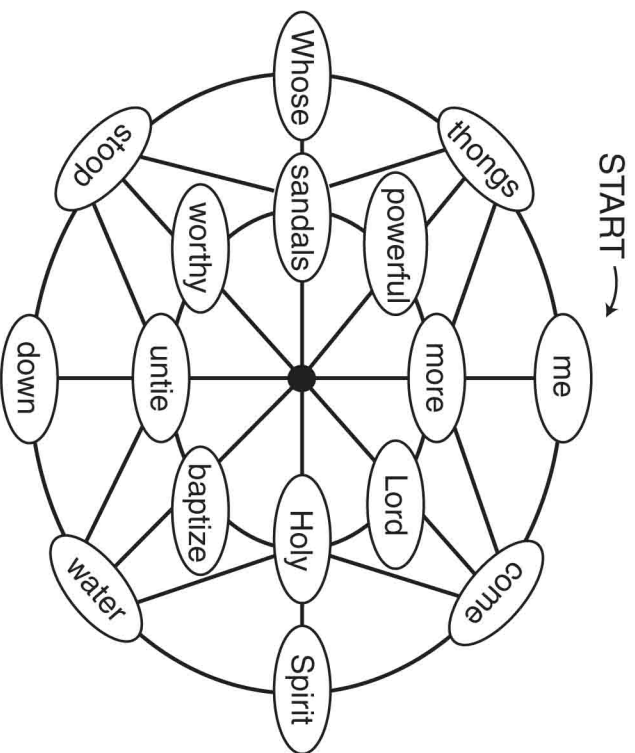
After me will come One more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.





John spoke about the Lord.
What did he say?

Follow the arrows to fill in the blanks.



"After ____ will ____ One ____"

____ than I, the ____ of

____ I am not ____
to ____ and ____.

I ____ you with ____, but He will

____ you with the ____.

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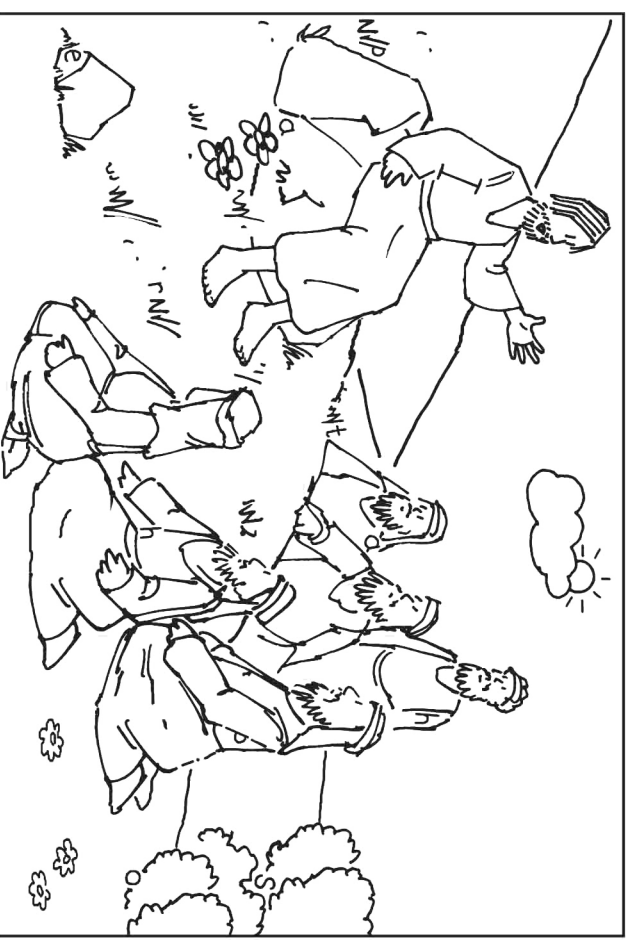
Ages 7+

December 6, 2020 • Mark 1:1-8

John Tells about Jesus

This is the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This Scripture quotes from another book of the Bible. Which book?

Unscramble the hidden letters to fill in the blanks.



The book of ____

the ____.



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Gathering Music: "Cathedral Prelude in -Minor" (BWV 533) and "Fugue in G-Minor" (BWV 861) – Composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV-533 pre-1705, and BWV-861 in 1722), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [IMSLP \(533\)](#) and [IMSLP \(861\)](#).

Video Reflection: "Advent Worship 4: Peace," by The Skit Guys and licensed by the Skit Guys. *Source(s): [The Skit Guys](#).

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Hymn Response: "Peace In Christ," performed by The Bonner Family. *Source(s): [YouTube](#).

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Contemplative Interlude: "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore" – Lyrics by Charles Coffin (1736), ©Public Domain. Translated by The New Century Hymnal (1993), ©1993 by The Pilgrim Press. Tune, "Winchester New" by Georg Wittwe (1690), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](#) and [The New Century Hymnal](#), song# 115.

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Prelude to Service: "Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella" – Lyrics by traditional French carol, ©Public Domain. Translated by E. Cuthbert Nunn (1868-1914). Tune, "Bring A Torch," by traditional French carol. Harmonized by E. Cuthbert Nunn (1868-1914), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Wikipedia](#).

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