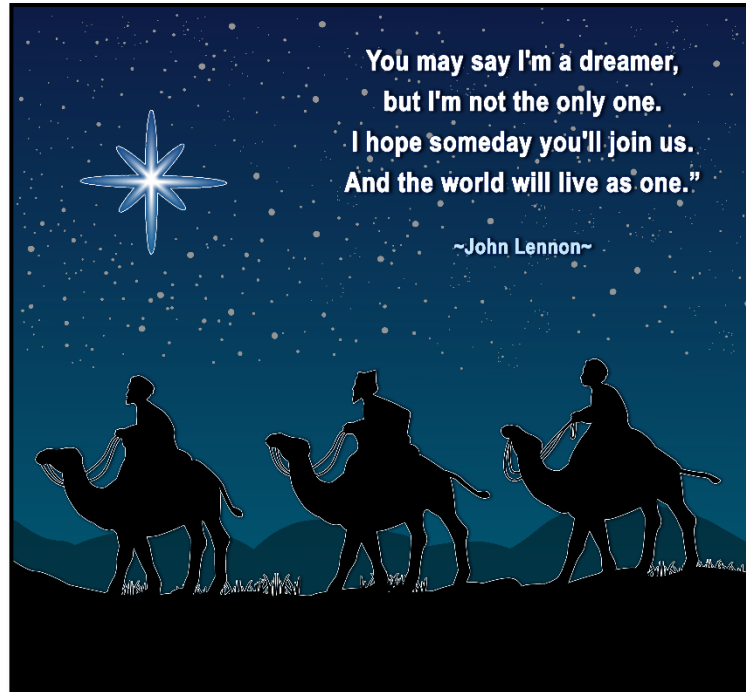


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

JANUARY 3RD, 2021 @ 11 A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Living in the Light

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' "

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!

The season of Christmas is quickly passing by with only two days left of the 12 Days of Christmas. We already begin preparing our hearts for the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord which is celebrated this Wednesday. We prepare our hearts and minds for the visit of the magi to the toddler Jesus bearing gifts and recognition of his holiness. What gifts, what recognition, do you come bearing before the Lord?

May we acknowledge Christ's holiness this day and everyday throughout the year as we daily offer our lives as sacrificial gifts to the Lord, allowing more and more of The Light to illumine and consume us. Come, let us worship Christ, the Light of Life, this day!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music✦

"Lord Christ, Thou Art the Heavenly Light"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✦

"God of Grace"

WE PREPARE

Call to Worship

One: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

All: We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

One: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

All: The darkness that surrounds us is gone!

One: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

All: Let us prepare our hearts to bear the light and become the ones who will bring the light of God's love to others. Amen.

Opening Prayer

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, we gather here this first Sunday of the New Year, with a mixture of hope, anticipation, fear, excitement, and expectation. We do not know what the year holds for us. There are things we are afraid of, but so much that we look forward to – during this time we are in, it is as if we are holding our breath, and we long to be with loved ones again we look forward to weddings or anniversaries or baptisms, holidays to enjoy, and friends to laugh with. O God, the coming year is full of uncertainty and hope. Whatever the year holds for us, though, we trust You, and we place every day of this year in your care knowing that, as in the past, You are with us, caring for us with constant love. And so, we place ourselves into your keeping and dedicate our lives to you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Meditative Interlude

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

An Epiphany Prayer

O God of Light and Life: We are thankful that you illuminate our dark places and bring joy to our bright places. Beauty and grace surround us as we are made aware of your presence in our every breath and every movement. Your Spirit encourages us to hope, entices us to trust, and emboldens us to love so that we might keep and create the peace that you envision will live

within us and between us. Inspire us to be light and life to all we meet, both near and far, family and foe, friend and stranger – for we are all your beloved children, and siblings of one another. Amen.

WE MEDITATE

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

Lector: Amber Nilson

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Message

"Arise and Shine!"

WE RESPOND

Blessing Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

Like the Magi who came to offer their gifts to the baby Jesus, we offer our gifts to you, O Compassionate One. May our financial and spiritual gifts become expressions of our love. With these gifts we give you the best we have to offer. Use them to make your light of compassion and justice shine more brightly in the world. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

We have come asking for the child — wondering where that love might be born, seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst, wandering through the darkness of so many mistakes. We have come to this place where wise ones and shepherds and young women met. We have come to this place called Bethlehem. To this place where our hearts rise like yeast. To this place where we meet our newborn hope. To this place where we taste our deepest joy. In Bethlehem, where we assumed the worst, imagining that no good can come, we somehow missed its name.

Bethlehem. Lehem meaning bread. Bethel meaning house.

There is something here that will satisfy our hunger. No matter how long we have wandered, Here our hearts arise. Our light has come. In this bread and in this cup, we celebrate something we can't quite understand. Because God has made a house at this table. Because God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely places. Because God comes to be with us. Now and always. It is with this expectation that we come to the table to taste and see that God is here. Let us pray:

Holy Spirit, come into this bread and this cup. Transform these ordinary objects as you change our hearts to shape and form your world with the joy you promise. Pour your grace upon us, so we overflow with your love. Help us to remember how a newborn baby might grow into a little child that would one day turn to his hope-filled friends in an upper room... And so, we remember:

Prayer of Our Savior

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

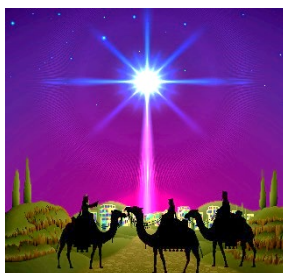
An Epiphany Blessing

Go into God's world, bearing the light of hope and peace. Bring the Good News of the love of God through Jesus Christ to all the people. Go in peace. Amen.

Prelude to Service ✦

"In Peace and Joy, We Now Depart"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Light of the World
An Adobe Stock Image

Activity Page Answer Key:

Use the Code:

"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

Use the Clock Code:

You will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of January 3rd



Consistory 2021 Elections

New nominations for the 2021 consistory include: Reinstatement of Tina Shafer as Deacon, and new first-time installation of Michael Jones as a deacon. Current member, Kim Ridenour, was nominated to fill the officer position of Vice President, and current member, Carroll Sager, was nominated to fill the officer position of Secretary. All other officer positions are filled by continuing members. There are still vacant elder positions to be filled.

Voting opened at noon, December 22nd and runs through noon, Jan 3rd. Voting can be done by calling the office, emailing the church, mailing in the Voting Form you received by mail and/or email, or vote electronically using the secure link that was mailed and emailed to you. If you did not receive any information by mail or email, contact the church office at 301.739.7244 or at zionrucc@myactv.net.

New Fridge Needed

The refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen is in need of replacement after faithfully serving Zion for over 20 years. If you would like to help offset the cost of a new refrigerator, please make donations by mail or by web designated for "Fridge Replacement". Donations can be made to Zion Reformed UCC, 201 N. Potomac Street, Hag, MD 21740 or virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/give>.

Prayer Requests



As a faith community, we are here to support and pray for one another. As a rule of thumb, we should pray for all of our Zion siblings even when a specific need isn't voiced, but especially when a specific need is. Submit your prayer requests to the church office by phone at 301.739.7244 or email at zionrucc@myactv.net so we can pray with you and your loved ones.



Please Remember

- ❖ Search & Call Committee members needed, contact the office if interested.
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.
- ❖ Zion Book Club resumes January 15th.



IMPORTANT DATES

January 3rd – January 10th



Consistory 2021 Voting

Votes must be received by noon, January 3rd, either in the office or online.
See announcement on previous page for more info.

Consistory Meeting

January 4th, 7pm

Soup Kitchen

January 5th, 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only.
Social distancing and masks enforced. Volunteers welcome.

Virtual Sunday Worship

January 10th at 11am (First Sunday After the Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord)
Virtual service at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.
(Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am)

For next week's special service please gather the following supplies:

10-15 sheets of paper; a bowl of water; 10 small rocks or pebbles; markers, crayons or pens in assorted colors; recent baptisms, baptismal candles/shells and/or baptism certificates; a candle for each worship participant; matches; news stories about water (bookmarked or printed out); and some family photos.



OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

4H Club Meeting

January 7th, 4:30pm via Zoom

Celebrate Recovery

Postponed until Further Notice





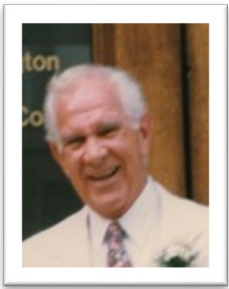
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



One Community,
Many Voices

In this time of social distancing and staying at home we find it difficult often to connect, to be the community of support that we are accustomed to being. In an effort to fill the void we have created a new section within the bulletin. Welcome to your Community Announcements. Please email any announcements, celebrations, joys, needs, or concerns that you'd normally share during worship to be included in this section of the bulletin to the church office at zionrucc@myactv.net or directly to Michael at connectionssixeight@gmail.com.

Homecoming of Harold E. "Gus" Talhelm



Harold "Gus" Eugene Talhelm, a long time Zion member went to be with our Lord on Thursday, December 24, 2020, peacefully at Doey's House in Hagerstown, MD. Gus and his family joined Zion in the early 1960s, under the pastorate of The Rev. Arthur L. Grove. Gus loved Zion and was deeply committed to supporting the church throughout his life. He is preceded in death by his wife of 38 years, Nancy, who sang in the Zion choir and taught in the Young Adult Sunday School Class. Gus is survived his daughter Beth Hohman and his wife Sondra Babb. On one occasion in 1983, The Rev. Wayne D. Sautter wrote to Gus, "I know you have a great deal of love and loyalty to Zion. But I believe you act out of something more basic and necessary – a love of God." The graveside service for Gus Talhelm will be held on January 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Rose Hill Cemetery, 600 South Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD. The family invites all to attend. Due to the current pandemic, a memorial service at Zion Church will be held at a later date. Take a moment to leave your thoughts and prayers in the online family guestbook at [Minnich Funeral Home](http://www.minnichfh.com) (www.minnichfh.com).

Homecoming of Anne G. "Annie" Kaylor



Anne G. "Annie" Kaylor went to be with our Lord on December 19, 2020. Annie was a member of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ and served on the choir for many years. She was an avid reader and loved learning. She also enjoyed tennis, bowling, gardening, and music. Annie and her husband were among the founders of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. She also had a passion for acting and was a talented actor in community theatre at Potomac Playmakers for thirty years, acting in 13 different plays. Annie is survived by her husband, Howard, and many children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Her family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to Zion Reformed UCC new piano fund. Due to the pandemic, burial service will be for the family and internment is at Rest Haven Cemetery. Thoughts and prayers may be expressed in the online family guestbook at [Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home](http://www.douglasfiery.com) (www.douglasfiery.com).

Please join us in prayer for the Kaylor and Talhelm families as they journey through the impact of loss and grief. Let us rejoice in knowing that they both are now present with our Lord and that one day we too will reunite with them and our Lord.



Epiphany House Blessing



If you have never done this short ceremony with your family, I would highly encourage you to do so today or tomorrow, most especially if you have children in your home. You can do it as a family or if you live alone, you can do it by yourself.

The tradition of blessing the home on Epiphany is an ancient custom in the Church. The custom focuses on the day when the Magi, or the Three Wise Men, entered the home of the Holy Family where they brought their gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, to a young Jesus Christ about the age of two. In order to do the Epiphany House Blessing, you will need three things:

1. **Epiphany Water** or Holy Water
2. **Chalk:** Blessed chalk by clergy is great, however, you can bless it as a family in the absence of clergy.
3. **The ceremony itself:** You can use one of the blessing ceremony links below or do a simple online search to find another. Some of the ceremonies are very simple and some are incredibly detailed. Find the one that best fits your family)

When the ceremony is complete, on the door frames the current year should flank the letters "C", "M", and "B" with crosses in between. The final inscription will read like this: 21+C+M+B+21.



An example from a blessing in 2020

The letters not only represent the names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar but the Latin phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means Christ bless this house.

Sample Ceremonies: (If you need a printed copy, email the office)

Family in Feast and Feria - <http://familyfeastandferia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/epiphanyceremony2020web.pdf>

Virgo Sacrata - <http://familyfeastandferia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/epiphanyceremony2020web.pdf>

Catholic Culture - <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=49>

Happy Epiphany!

SERVICE CREDITS

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Gathering Music: "Lord Christ, Thou Art the Heavenly Light" (Chorale Partita BWV 766) – Harmonized by Johann S. Bach (around 1700), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [IMSLP](http://imslp.org) (imslp.org).

Prelude to Worship: "God of Grace" – Tune, "CWM Rhondda," by John Hughes (1907), ©Public Domain. Arrangement by Paul Manz, ©1974 by Concordia Publishing House, reassigned 1989 to MorningStar Publishers. Lyrics, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" by William Williams (1745), translated by Peter Williams (1771), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org) and [MorningStar Music](http://www.morningstarmusic.com) (www.morningstarmusic.com).

Meditative Interlude: "We Three Kings" – Tune, "Kings of Orient" by John Henry Hopkins (1857), ©Public Domain. Arrangement by Leatherman, ©UKN. by John Henry Hopkins (1857), ©Public Domain. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org).

Contemplative Interlude: "Carol of the Bells" – Tune by Mykola Leontovych (1914), based on Ukranian folk chant "Shchedryk", ©Public Domain. Arrangement by Leatherman, ©UKN. Lyrics by Peter J. Wilhousky (Depression Era), ©1936 by Carl Fischer Music. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org) (https://en.wikipedia.org).

Communion Medley: "Communion Medley on Harpsichord" – Arrangement by Claire Marie Moblard, based on "Peace Like A River" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.

Prelude to Service: "In Peace and Joy We Now Depart" (BWV 125.6) – Tune, "Mit Fried Und Freud" by J. Klug (1524), ©Public Domain. Arrangement by Johann Sebastian Bach (1725), ©Public Domain. Lyrics, "Mit Fried Und Freud" by Martin Luther (1483-1546), ©2000 by Augsburg Fortress. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org)

Liturgical Components: Adapted from [Worship Ways](#), a ministry of the United Church of Christ, ©2020 by Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team. Used with permission, all rights reserved. Amber Nilson reading the people's responses.

Scripture Lessons: from the [New Revised Standard Version](#) of the Bible, ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved, used with permission. Barb Hendershot as lector.

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Epiphany House Blessing Resource: From [blog](#) of Tom Perna (tomperna.org). All rights reserved.

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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