

ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Sunday of Advent ☞ November 28th, 2021 ☞ 11 A.M.



Meditation of the Day

" Hope is the thing with feathers that perches on the soul – and sings the tunes without the words – and never stops at all. "

~ Emily Dickinson ~

WORSHIP GUIDE

Traveling with Hope

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

✦ Indicates Music Selection

Please silence all mobile devices.

Gathering Music ✦

"Wachet Auf"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✦

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

↑ Call to Community

November ends. December begins.

We find our beginning and our ending in God.

Month after month, our God supports us.

We offer thanks and praise for God's loving presence.

Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

**The One who is the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.**

↓ Aleem Maqbool's Diary: Journey Day 1

Rich Owens

In 2008, a BBC reporter began a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to follow in Mary and Joseph's footsteps. He kept a journal to document the journey for his listeners. This Advent we will read excerpts from this diary.

I am due to start where tradition has it that Mary and Joseph started. Two thousand years ago, Nazareth is thought to have been a tiny agricultural hamlet. Now, the remains of what many people believe to be Mary's home are enshrined in a massive basilica. A little way up the hill, another church houses the excavated ruins of what was thought to be Joseph's carpentry workshop. It is close to the Church of the Annunciation - where many Christians believe the angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary in her home - that I have arranged to meet Cynthia, the donkey. From there, the two of us will head south (mainly downhill, thankfully) to the town of Afula.

"Why are you standing there with a donkey?" said an old man. "This is a nice modern city, and you're standing there with a donkey! What are you trying to say? What's wrong with you?" The road to Bethlehem is never as easy as we hope.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
Traveling With Hope

Rae, Domenick, and Beth

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. *(Luke 2:1-5)*

A candle burns, The first marker of our Advent journey. As we set out, may we travel hopefully.
As we set out, God of journeys, travel with us.

Musical Offering ✧

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Rich, Becky, Mary, and Barb

Time with Children

Hymn of Adoration ✧

"Now Thank We All Our God"
NCH #419 (Verse 1)

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD
The Holy Scriptures

Hebrew Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)
Carol Mooers

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth... distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Message by Rev. Katie Penick

A New Day

Contemplative Music ✦

"You'll Never Walk Alone"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these gifts nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May they nurture your rule of peace. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here at the Table.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

The Prayer

Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life, Source of love that knows no boundaries. Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began; throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where:

those considered last and least are first and most;
violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and,
all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people:

"O come, Emmanuel."

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness with one voice.

Rejoice, Rejoice,
Emmanuel Shall Come to You, O Israel!

At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...

all who are ill or alone...
all who are close to our hearts...
all our sisters who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty...
for all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries, for nations as they strive for peace and justice, for an end to violence against women. God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding, this wine the medium of our transformation, this table the foundation of our renewal, and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

The Story

At this time, we remember Jesus, Who on the night before he died, took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said: "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This is the new covenant; remember me."

The Blessing

Gracious God, Breath of peace, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one. Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.**

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Sharing the Meal ✧

Prayer of Our Savior

**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 and ever. Amen.**

Sending Forth

Prelude to Service ✧

"Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella"



GO FORTH IN PEACE AND SERVE IN LOVE!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of November 28th



Mask Policy

Not everyone is vaccinated, let us show our love for ALL of our neighbors by wearing our face masks at all times inside the Church, and by practicing social distancing when interacting with one another. *#RootedInLove*



Tree Decorating, Pizza, & Movie



Join us after church TODAY to decorate the church for Christmas. After decorating Enjoy some pizza while watching the animated classic, "The Grinch" presented by Christian Ed. This great animated classic will be the basis of the special Sunday School Advent Study that begins next week (Dec 5th), entitled, "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes." This exciting study led by Sue Graff will explore the faith story found within this beloved classic by Dr. Seuss. Weekly sessions will start off as a combined group including children and adult classes before breaking into age-based groups for activity and discussion. This will be a **hybrid** class, available in-person and virtually.

To join virtually, use the Journeys connection information via Zoom by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling [301.715.8592](tel:301.715.8592), and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: [894 3614 5937](https://zoom.us/join) and Passcode: [536055](https://zoom.us/join), or simply click this [One-Click Join](#).

Sock Drive



The Service Workers Sock Drive for school-age children comes to a close this week. If you have socks to bring in, do so by Tuesday. Beginning next month, they will be collecting gloves and hats for children, ages 5-7.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held after church on **December 12th**. Please plan to attend this important Church business session. We will be voting on the 2022 budget, considering a proposal to change worship time to 11am year-round, and voting new consistory members in for the 2022 session. It will be a jam-packed session that you don't want to miss because if you aren't here, your voice cannot be heard.



A Zoom link will be shared so those unable to attend in-person can attend virtually. The budget proposal and other documents are available in print at the Church and can also be emailed to you upon request.

Consistory Nominations & Renewals

- Kim Ridenour (Term Renewal, 3rd Consecutive Term)
- Carroll Sager (Term Renewal, 3rd Consecutive Term)
- Rich Owens (New Nominee, 1st Term)
- Susie Clutz (New Nominee, 1st Term)
- Alex Jones (New Nominee, 1st Term)
- Calvin Livingston (New Nominee, 1st Term)

Joys & Concerns

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to **Chris Emmert** (Nov 30th), **Matthew Cook** (Dec 1st), and **Rich Owens** (Dec 2nd). Happy belated anniversary to **Randy & Barb Hendershot** (Nov 22nd). May this year of your lives be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of each of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your lives is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial that may arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.



Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray with our Zion siblings and their loved ones: [Thomas Baker](#), [Beanie](#), [Brenda](#), [Holly Bell](#), [Naomi Brackett](#), [Linda Cantilena](#), [Cisco](#), [Kim & Bill Cook](#), [Sonny Crebbs](#), [Grace Elizabeth](#), [Dot Glasscock](#), [Beth Gross](#), [Kevin High](#), [Sherry Hockman](#), [Rev. Ann Holmes](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Dee Krause](#), [Lagenfelder Family](#), [Minnich Family](#), [Peters Family](#), [Colleen Rand](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Daisy Schlotterbeck](#), [Norm & Lori Schmidt](#), [Ralph & Scherry Sellers](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Thelma Summers](#), [Eleanor Wible](#), and [Robert Yeoman](#).

**Prayer Requests remain active on the prayer list for 4-weeks and will be removed at that time unless renewed or requested to remain on the list long-term.*

Lector Ministry



Lector this week is **Carol Mooers**. Next week's scheduled lector is **Rae Smith**.

**If unable to serve as lector for your designated week, please let Michael know by the Wednesday prior to your scheduled date at connectionssixeight@gmail.com or 240.203.0854.*



Christian Ed Committee Meeting (*rescheduled*) – Nov 29th at 1pm

Hanukkah Begins – Nov 29th

Tuesday's Supper – Nov 30th from 5pm-6:30pm in the basement Fellowship Hall.

More Info at www.facebook.com/events/344211243835048

World AIDS Day – Dec 1st

Executive Committee Meeting – Dec 2nd at 2pm

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club – Dec 2nd at 4:30pm via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/join/join> -- Meeting ID [815 1055 0627](#) Passcode [899733](#).

An Advent Prayer for Hope

Advent Prayer based on Psalm 25:1-10



To you, O God, I offer the whole of me. I put my trust in you and ask you to keep me from collecting shame. Do not let the behavior of others take away my sense of worth. I wait for your wisdom and seek to avoid the shame others would put on me; let those who act against your love experience shame enough to bring change. Make your holy ways known to me, O God. Teach me how to embody your Love. Lead me in your truth, show me the fullness of Creation, for your ways save me from my own foolishness. May I seek your ways every day, every moment. Have mercy on me, O God, and allow me to experience your steadfast love, your steadfast love which has endured through the ages. Free me from the sins, the transgressions, the harmful ways of my youth. Awaken me anew to your steadfast love that I may share your goodness with all. You are good and righteous; you teach freedom from the pain of sin. You lead the humble to your love, and teach the humble how to live in your holy ways. All your ways are steadfast love and faithfulness. May my life, and the lives of all who seek you, reflect your love and mercy.

Amen.

ADVENT CHALLENGE

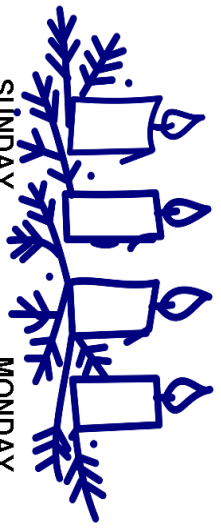
**Each Day Add An Item To
A Box And Take Time To
Give Thanks And Pray.**

**On Christmas Eve Bring
The Contents To Church
And Make An Offering To
The Zion Food Pantry**

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



Advent 2021 Self-care Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>28 HOPE Who are the people who bring you hope? Send them a note of thanks.</p>	<p>29 Make your favorite hot beverage and take time to enjoy it. Maybe chat with a friend.</p>	<p>30 Make a list of activities that bring you hope. Pick one to do today.</p>	<p>1 What's your favorite Christmas treat? Make or buy some and be sure to share with a friend or neighbor.</p>	<p>2 Play or listen to your favorite Christmas music. What happy memories come to mind? Share these with someone.</p>	<p>3 Donate money, food, or other items to a charity of your choosing. Pray for those who are in need.</p>	<p>4 Set an hour aside for quiet activity or reflection. Notice if you feel more hopeful after some quiet.</p>
<p>5 PEACE What brings you peace of body, mind, or spirit? Do whatever it is at some point today.</p>	<p>6 Take a few minutes to imagine you are in a peaceful place. What can you see, smell, hear, taste, and touch?</p>	<p>7 Spend a few minutes praying for peace – in your life, in your neighborhood, in the country, and in the world.</p>	<p>8 When you think of peace in your life, who comes to mind? Send them a note of thanks.</p>	<p>9 Do something kind for someone else. Send a card... drop off a plate of cookies... pay for their coffee...</p>	<p>10 Indulge in something today – a long hot bath, a holiday treat, reading a novel... notice how you feel in the moment</p>	<p>11 What is one thing you can do today to bring a moment of peace to your life or someone else's? Do it.</p>
<p>12 JOY Who or what brings you joy? Reach out to the people and/or engage in the activity.</p>	<p>13 What activities brought joy to your younger self? Do one of those things if you can. If not, share the memory with someone.</p>	<p>14 Watch your favorite comedy tv show or movie. Do a few minutes of laughter bring joy closer? Find some laughter every day.</p>	<p>15 Reach out to someone who makes you laugh even in tough times. Talk by Zoom or phone. Express your gratitude to them.</p>	<p>16 Remember a previous Christmas season in which you felt joy. Is there any part of that you could bring into today?</p>	<p>17 Watch the sunrise or set or imagine you are in your favorite place watching the sunrise or set. Give thanks for the beauty of Creation.</p>	<p>18 Do something creative – bake, draw, write, sew, paint, play music, etc. Notice how creativity lessens stress and makes room for joy.</p>
<p>19 LOVE Think of all the people you love and have loved. Spend time in prayer thanking God for each of them.</p>	<p>20 Write a note to someone, thanking them for the ways their love for you has helped you. Send the letter if you can.</p>	<p>21 Spend an hour today doing something you love – anything from baking to reading to watching TV, etc.</p>	<p>22 Send or drop off a card or small gift to someone who needs a reminder that they are loved and valued.</p>	<p>23 Take time today to savor your favorite holiday treat and relax for a few minutes.</p>	<p>24 Reach out to family and/or friends today. Plan to attend worship tonight to remember the simple wonder and awe of Christmas.</p>	<p>25 Take a moment and breathe in the wonder of today. Notice the hope, peace, joy, and love in your life. Christmas lasts until January 6. There's time to share hope, peace, joy, and love.</p>

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Gathering Music: "*Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme*" - Composed by Johann Ludwig Krebs, ©1978 by N. Simrock, Hamburg-London. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) and Byron L. Stay (trumpet) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.

Prelude to Worship: "*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*" - Hymn tune Picardy. A 17th Century French Carol. ©2015 by Concordia Publishing House. Arr. By Benjamin Kolodziej. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.

Musical Offering: "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*" (acapella) - Lyrics by Phillips Brooks (1868), ©Public Domain. Tune, "Forest Green," a traditional English melody, ©Public Domain, arr. by Ralph Vaughn Williams, ©Public Domain. Performed by Rich Owens, Becky Owens, Mary D'Amato Emmert, and Barb Hendershot. Source(s): [Hymnary](http://Hymnary.org) (hymnary.org). CCLI# 1741697.

Hymn of Adoration: "*Now Thank We All Our God*" - Tune Nun Danket Alle Gott by Johann Cruger (1648). Lyrics by Martin Rinkart (1858), ©Public domain. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) and Byron L. Stay (trumpet) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.

Gospel Seque: "*A Virgin Most Pure, the Prophets Foretold*" - Traditional melody. Arr. Alice Jordan. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. Incipit: 345654325345

Contemplative Interlude: "*You'll Never Walk Alone*" - Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Music by Richard Rodgers. ©1945 by Williamson Music, copyright renewed. All rights reserved. Arranged and orchestrated by Steven Mercurio.

Communion Music:

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"*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" - Arr. C. M. Moblard. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved.

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Liturgical Resources Used:

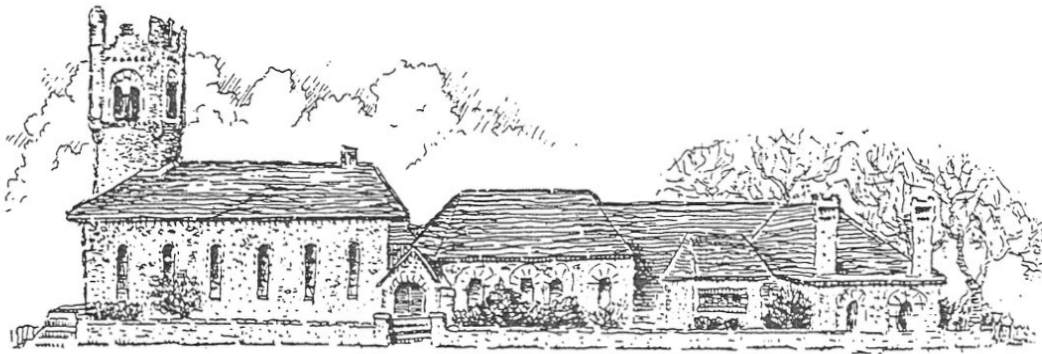
Aleem Maqbool's Diary: Available online at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7784227.stm

Call to Worship adapted from Harry Disher, Grand Bend/Greenway P.C., Etobicoke, Ont. Published in Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2004–2005, produced by the United Church of Canada. Please credit the author. <https://www.united-church.ca/worship>

The Prayer from Communion Liturgy was inspired by "Blessed are you, gracious God..." by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in Celebrate God's Presence, page 276. Used with permission.)

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