

ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Second Sunday after Christmas Day ☞ January 2nd, 2021 ☞ 11 A.M.



Meditation of the Day

"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas Spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world."

~ Norman Vincent Peale ~

WORSHIP GUIDE

Make A Joyful Noise!

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

✦ Indicates Music Selection

Prelude to Worship ✦

Unsung Carols Medley

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Katie Penick

Prelude to Worship ✦

"Come All Ye Shepherds"

Litany for the Past Year

first candle is lit

We light this candle remembering the children who saw a glimpse of God's sacred presence in our sanctuary.

This light beams so that all young people may be able to grow up receiving affection and protection.

second candle is lit

We light this second candle remembering all those who have experienced grief and loss in our congregation: the death of a loved one, the ending of a significant relationship, the loss of employment.

This light beams for their continuing comfort and support.

third candle is lit

We light this third candle remembering all those who have shared in ministry in this place: Ministers, lay preachers, musicians and singers, those who offered pastoral care or reminded us of our wider community, those who visited hospitals, nursing homes, cooked meals or offered transport.

This light beams with the compassion of the Christ One in our midst.

fourth candle is lit

We light this fourth candle remembering all those who have visited our congregation and decided to call this place, 'home'.

This light beams in order that we continue to explore and enjoy everything we have received, as a gift.

fifth candle is lit

We light this fifth candle mindful of those who have called us to risk the way of Jesus: to create inclusive and safe, open, and honest communities for all.

This light beams as a symbol of hope in the midst of both challenge and comfort.

sixth candle is lit

We light this sixth candle for each of us, bearing each other's strengths and weaknesses; anxieties and hopes.

This light beams on the pathways we have welcomed and where we didn't want to go. It will continue to shine for each and every one of us on the new pathways we will tread.

Call to the New Year

Based on Revelation 21:1-6

We are the church that lives into God's future today.

A church united across space and time.

We have gathered from the East and the West; the North and the South.

We are called to live by the work of God in Christ that was, is now, and is still to come.

The one who is seated on the throne says to us: "See, I am making all things new!"

A new heaven and a new earth, where the home of God is among God's people.

God's future is epic, and it's good news.

We remember God's future, for this is our story!

First Carol ✧ (congregational sing)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [*Refrain*]

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Lesson

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (NRSV)

Michael Jones, Lector

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead

them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18 (NRSV)

Rev. Katie Penick

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Blessing of the Christ Candle

Source of all Light, we celebrate today the coming of your Word made flesh, your Light of Life to dwell among us. Bless these holy flames that in their glow we may be blessed by your grace and abiding love. As these candles grace our tables and our homes today, let them remind us of your constant presence and your unwavering care. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives and in our world so desperate for the love, peace, hope and joy this day brings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

Second Carol ✨ (congregational sing)

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? [*Refrain*]

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [*Refrain*]

Reflection by Rev. Katie Penick

"A Christmas Truce Letter"
Based on the work of Aaron Shepherd

Third Carol ✨ (congregational sing)

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

RESPONDING IN LOVE

Invitation to Give

Blessing our Gifts

God of grace, we hear your call to generous giving in the way you meet our needs each day, and in the peace you give which passes understanding. Having received so much, we give to you our time, talents and money to build up your kingdom. Bless these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH

Sending Forth

And now may the glory and love of God surround you.

May the peace and grace of Christ dwell deep within us all.

May the power and presence of the Holy Spirit uphold you.

Amen.

Prelude to Service ✦

Unsung Carols Medley



GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Week of January 2nd

In-person worship services have been temporarily suspended due to the exceedingly high positivity rate in Washington County. Currently Washington County has a positivity rate of 22.56% as of Dec 28th. This rate exceeds the 10% rate determined by our Consistory as a rate to safely congregate together for corporate worship. In-person worship will resume once the positivity rate reaches 10% or below. In the meantime, please worship with us virtually in an effort to keep us all safe during the pandemic while we navigate holiday surges and the new omicron variant. All in-person activities are suspended during this time except for Tuesday's Supper which will offer carry-out meals only.

Virtual worship will be available at www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive at 11am every Sunday. Sunday School will be available via ZOOM every Sunday from 9:45 – 10:45am with the Children's Sunday School Class (ages 4-18) and Journeys Adult Class offered virtually. As we navigate this newest leg of the journey, should other Sunday School options become available virtually, we will share that information as soon as possible.

If you are unable to participate virtually and would like a written format of the service to read instead, please contact the church office.

If you require assistance connecting virtually or have any technical difficulties, please contact the church office at 301-739-7244 or by email at zionrucc@myactv.net.

And please remember, should you need anything, Pastor Katie and the Church Office are available by phone or email to assist you.

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To join Children's Sunday School virtually: Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 865 7471 1577 and Passcode: YouthSS.

To join Journeys Adult Sunday School virtually: Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: 894 3614 5937 and Passcode: 536055.

For a One-Click Join option, simply copy and paste the following URL into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436145937?pwd=SGxMbWNIYzBqbnJvVE9iUIJYTXI0dz09>

Worship virtually: Go to www.zionreformed.church/worshiplive at 11am Sunday morning (or any time after to participate on-demand).



Joys & Concerns

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to **Loribeth & Kenlin Martin** (Jan 1st)! 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, Meredith Button, Carroll Borkman, Naomi Brackett, Linda Cantilena, Cisco, Kim & Bill Cook, Sonny Crebbs, Ronald Curry, Grace Elizabeth, Dot Glasscock, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Beth Gross, Kevin High, Sherry Hockman, Ann Kalinoski, Dee Krause, Scott Krout, Lagenfelder Family, Stephenson-Lane Family, Colleen Rand, Leslie Rose, David Ridenour, Sammy Rittleberger, 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



January 9th Lector: **Rich Owens**

January 16th Lector: **Amber Nilson**

**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.*



Important Dates This Week



Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry – Jan 4th from 5pm-6:30pm (carry-out only)

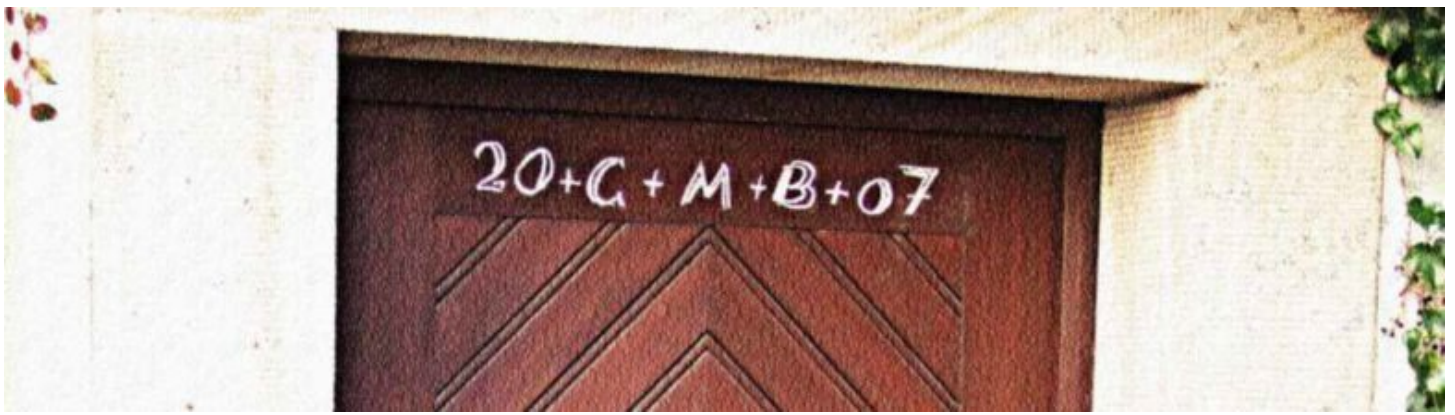
More Info at www.facebook.com/events/344211243835048

Epiphany – Jan 6th

Executive Meeting – Jan 6th at 2pm via Zoom.

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club – Jan 6th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/join> -- Meeting ID **815 1055 0627** Passcode **899733**.



Chalking the Door: An Epiphany Tradition

"Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love."

What Is Chalking the Door?

This short liturgy is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes. In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives.

What Do the Numbers and Letters Mean?

The first and last numbers simply refer to the current year. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!"

How To Do It

1. **Mark your calendar:** Epiphany is on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. In Great Britain, chalking the door takes place on Twelfth-Night, January 5th, the eve of Epiphany. Many families gather in their homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing, and gifts... and to chalk the door.
2. **Find some chalk:** Any color will do!
3. **Gather your household:** Everyone should be involved. For those who live alone, consider inviting a friend or neighbor. Or gather at your church to chalk the church entrance.
4. **Pray:** Use the prayers and liturgy below.
5. **Write the inscription:** Using the chalk, and taking turns, make the following inscription above the outside of your door.

20 + C + M + B + 22

If using this for a year other than 2022, make sure the first 2 numbers in the inscription reflect the 1st two numbers of the current year and the last two numbers in the inscription are the last 2 digits of the current year.

Liturgy & Prayers for Chalking the Door

Leader: Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.

People: **Amen.**

One or more of the following prayers may be said:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever.
Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

As participants take turns making the inscription, the leader says:

The three Wise Men, [C] Caspar, [M] Melchior, [B] and Balthasar followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus [20] two thousand, [22] and twenty-two years ago. [+ +] May Christ bless our home [+ +], and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

All say the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

This article was first published in January 2011 by *Building Faith*, a ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary:
<https://buildfaith.org/chalking-the-door>.

Thanks to Bosco Peters at liturgy.co.nz for the three prayers in the liturgy.

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"*Lullay, Lullay*" - Arranged by C. Gill. Thomas Mawdyke.

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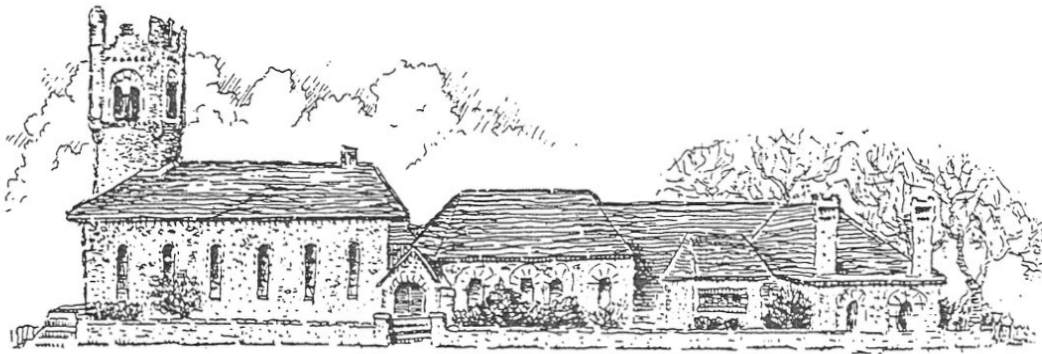
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