

ZION REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epiphany Sunday ☞ January 9th, 2022 ☞ 11 A.M.



Meditation of the Day

"Without the quest, there can be no epiphany."

~ Constantine E. Scaros ~



WORSHIP GUIDE

A Light Shines in the Darkness!

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Congregational Responses are in **Bold**.

✦ Indicates Music Selection

Gathering Music ✦

"O Morning Star"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✦

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

*Call to Community (based on Isaiah 60:1-3)

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of God has risen upon us!

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples,

But God will rise upon us, and God's glory will appear over us.

The light of God is with us;

All the nations' leaders will be drawn to the light of God.

God's light now dwells with us;

Come, worship God, and shine God's light to the world!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12
Rich Owens, Lector

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.' 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Blessing of the Christ Candle (The Light Has Come)

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Message

Backwards Promises

Contemplative Interlude†

*"As with Gladness"****RESPONDING IN LOVE***

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

As the Wise Ones of old, guided by a star in the night sky, brought gifts of homage and gratitude, so we bless our gifts today. May these gifts scatter the shadows of those in need, as you hear your holy voice proclaim words of love and hospitality. Amen

Installation of the 2022 Consistory

Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body, which has many parts. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation of the 2022 Consistory

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us as our church officers and Consistory. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Elders: Susie Clutz, Michael Jones, Carol Mooers, Kim Ridenour, Carroll Sager, Tina Shafer

Deacons: Alex Jones, Dee Krause, Calvin Livingston, Rich Owens, Daisy Schlotterbeck, Rae Smith

Ex Officio: Rev. Katie Penick (Pastoral Advisor) and Lisa Saum (Church Treasurer)

Covenantal Promise of Service of Consistory Members *(to the entire 2022 consistory)*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service as an officer of the congregation and/or Consistory member in the ministry of this church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

All Consistory Members: **I am.**

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

All Consistory Members: **I do, relying on God's grace.**

Congregational Response

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

Congregation: **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Laying on Of Hands of New Consistory Members

(continuing consistory members lift hands outward in prayer to virtually "lay" hands in unified prayer on new consistory members)

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you, Suzie Clutz, Alex Jones, Calvin Livingston and Rich Owens, as you embark on a new calling for this congregation.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of elder or deacon in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of elder or deacon in the name of Christ.

All Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayer

Let us pray: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Declaration

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are hereby installed in your respective positions.

Greeting of Christian Love

In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the greeting of Christian love.

Meditative Interlude ✧

"God of Change"

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Still a light shines, and the darkness does not overcome it. At this table, Christ is revealed in the ordinariness of life—as once he was revealed in a child playing in his neighborhood, a child trusting his parents to keep him safe, now he is revealed in a meal shared among the family of God, simple bread and wine, the stuff of life handed down from generation to generation. It is here, at Christ's table, where brokenness leads to wholeness. It is here, at Christ's table, where cracks allow light to shine forth. It is here, at Christ's table, where we see him most clearly, and where we are given eyes to see him at every table. This is not a feast for the UCC, this table does not belong to the church—this is the joyful feast of the people of God, and it is Christ who invites you, all of you, to come, eat, drink, and see.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for your star shines still in the night sky, guiding your people in paths of love and justice. In the beginning, you brought light into darkness, and created a people to reflect your glory. When we have lost our way or turned away, you shone the light all the brighter, calling us through the words of prophets and even in the life of your Son, who was born as we are born, breathed and ate and walked and lived as we do, who not only revealed your way but is the way. And even now, your Spirit burns like flame in our hearts in the community in your word at this table. As we come, drawn to the warmth and wonder, we pray for your light to shine gently on those wounded places of our hearts, for we carry burdens of shame, of hurt, of grief, of fear. We carry a world crying out, longing for relief. We see violence and hatred, apathy and disgust, power misused and people treated as disposable. Give us courage to stand and see, to refuse to be consoled, until your creation is healed by the hot light of your justice. When we shade our eyes against the brightness of your way, help us see what you see. When we assume the end of the story, remind us that you, not we, are the author. When we are tempted to settle into a comfortable routine of selfishness, hopelessness, or convenience, awaken us to your new thing, and make us partners in your creating. As we break bread together, may our hearts be broken with yours. As we who are many are gathered like grain into one body, may your Spirit knit us together. As we bring the gifts we have to offer—though they are not gifts fit for a king—may our hearts be open to receive your gift once again this day, and may your church be strengthened to be a gift to your world. As we share the same meal you, Lord, have shared with disciples, with enemies, with the church through the ages, may our eyes be opened and may we recognize you. We pray these and all things in the name of Jesus Emmanuel, God with Us, who taught us to pray together...

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.**

Our Story

Sharing the Meal ✦

"Brightest & Best" / "This Little Light of Mine"

Prayer of Blessing

We give you thanks, O Holy One, for once again you have filled us with good things—not just bread and wine, but your very self. Now may this glimpse of your Beloved Community sustain us, and give us eyes to see you at work in every place, and strength to be your body in the world. As you have blessed the bread and broken it, you have blessed us and let light shine through the cracks. Make us your people, again and again, light for the world. In Jesus name. 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. And all God's people said:
Amen.

Prelude to Service ✦

"I Saw Three Ships"



The Wise Still Seek Him!

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

Joys & Concerns

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 16th Lector: **Amber Nilson**

January 23rd Lector: **Barb Hendershot**

**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 240.883.4544.*



Search & Call Committee Mtg – Jan 10th, 5:30pm via Zoom

Consistory Meeting – Jan 10th, 7pm via Zoom

Tuesday's Supper & Food Pantry – Jan 11th from 5pm-6:30pm (carry-out only)

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

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club – Jan 13th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

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





CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Week of January 9th

In-person worship services remain suspended due to the exceedingly high positivity rate in Washington County. Currently Washington County remains at a 31% positivity rate. This rate exceeds the 10% threshold 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).



SERVICE CREDITS

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Gathering Music: "*O Morning Star! How Fair and Bright*" - Settings by Gade, Pachelbel, and J. S. Bach, ©Public Domain. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: "*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*" by Johan Rist, ©Public Domain. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Contemplative Interlude: "*As with Gladness*" - Abridged from Chorale, *Treuer Heiland* by Conrad Kocher (1838), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by William C. Dix, 1861, ©Public Domain. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Meditative Interlude: "*God of Change*" - Composed by Al Carmines (1973), ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Katherine, ©Public Domain. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Communion Music:

"*Brightest and Best*" - Composed by James T. Harding, ©Public Domain. Arrangement ©2016 by Lorenz Corporation. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

"*This Little Light of Mine*" - Attributed to Harry Dixon Loes. Arrangement ©2011 by Lorenz Corporation. Performed by C. M. Moblard (pianist) and Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC.

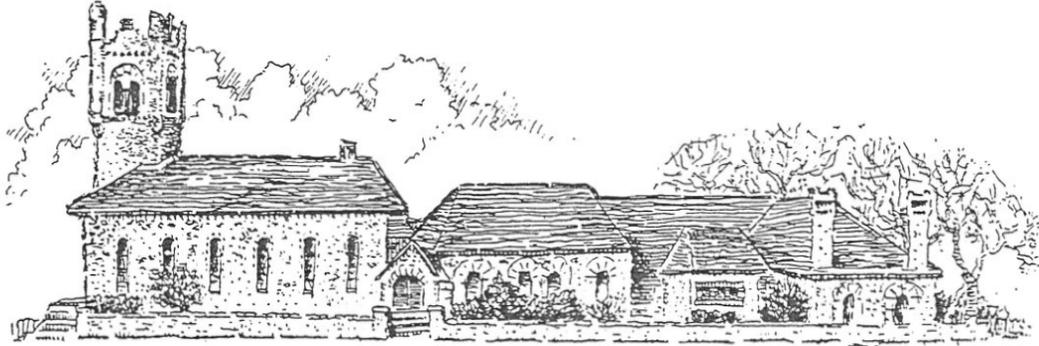
Prelude to Service: "*I Saw Three Ships*" - Traditional English Carol, ©Public Domain. Setting by Richard Elliott, ©2008 by Richard Elliott. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organ) and Byron L. Stay (trumpet) of Zion Reformed UCC.

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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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