

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.

Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "Come, O Savior of the World" Beethoven

Candle Lighting Liturgy Phyliss Fink & Elsie Saake

You were asked the question, "What gives you hope?" Hear the voices of different generations, hear your answers:

Good people doing good for others

Sunshine

My family

God is still with us

Kindness of strangers

Each new day

My grandchildren

Jesus

Knowing I am loved

My faith

The willingness of children to accept others without judgement

What gives you hope?

Today we light the candle of hope to remind ourselves that God is at work in this world. From generation to generation, God has brought good news of love and compassion, justice and community. Let us rest and abide in that good news. Amen.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

God of the ages, in scripture we hear stories of people like us—ordinary people, people who longed to know you, people who longed to follow you, people who made mistakes, people who tried to grow—old, young, native, immigrant, new to the faith, lifelong believer. In scripture we hear stories of people like us, so just as you walked with them, help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us. We are listening. We are grateful. We are yours. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Isaiah 2:1-15 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 153 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

There's room for every story. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

Family of faith, we who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, “There’s room for you here.” From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Announcements

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. Over 95% of our budget is directly supported through our offering. While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially: There is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at zionunion.org.

+ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

God of generations past and generations yet to come, bless these gifts we offer to your church. With confidence and faith in you, help us to run the race that is set before us, as we press onward toward your kingdom, which has no end. All blessing, honor, and glory be unto you. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 1:1-17 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“O Holy Night”

Dan Mossoney, fiddle

Sermon

“There’s Room for Every Story”

Pastoral Prayer and The 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. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn (pg. 5)

“Through the Ages”

+ Benediction

Postlude

“Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying”

Nicolas

Today’s Candle Lighting Liturgy, Opening Prayer, Confession Liturgy and Pastoral Prayer come from the Generation to Generation Words for Worship Advent through Epiphany. The Liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. The Graphic Design on the Bulletin Cover was created by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Zion United Church of Christ

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Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson

Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick

Council President: Jane Wilson

Church Custodian: Sarah Buscher

Through the Ages

MUELLER 11.11.11.11

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: James R. Murray (1887)

Oh down through the a - ges and gen - er - a - tions From God in the
From A - bra - ham, Is -aac, and Is - ra - el's line How Ra - hab and
And still through the a - ges our sto - ries will find Be - long - ing in

gar - den to Je - sus the son Each sto - ry was wo - ven, each one has a
Ruth and Bath she - ba sur - vived From ex - ile in Eg - ypt to Bab - y - lon
God's sto - ry of hu - man kind From God in the gar - den to e - ter - ni -

place With - in the great tap - es - try tell - ing God's grace
far Christ's lin - e - age shows how com - plex sto - ries are
- ty We're wo - ven to - geth - er as one tap - es - try

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We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

There's room for every story

+ The First Sunday of Advent +

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Union, Missouri