

The 1st Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.
Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude “Now to Us Descending” Scott

Call to Worship

In the midst of night’s shadows and anguish,
We pray earnestly to experience your presence.
As dawn slips into the horizon and relieves night of its reign,
We pray earnestly to sense your presence.
As daylight grows into noontime, filled with the glow of sun’s light,
We pray earnestly to know your presence.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.
Lover God, Creator of Our Hearts, through your Spirit, our love grows for our neighbors. Our hearts are drawn to your expanding light as we see through the faces of our neighbors. May the joy of your Divine Love spill into each corner of your Realm as we anticipate your love and light in this season of longer nights and bleak days. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture Psalm 25 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...
Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 644 “ God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Candle Lighting Liturgy
Congregational Response

**O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the Possible and Probable, Gloom often encapsulates us when life is confusing and conflict is great. Our faith is rattled, and we are swallowed by shadows of fear. The world often feels like the end is near even when a new beginning is around the corner. We forget that even when shadows have lengthened, there remains a crack in the surface. Light begins to stream into our space, and warmth dances upon our hearts. When fear unnerves us, may we cling to the hope of God’s love and the possibilities of joy once again. Amen.

Words of Grace

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 Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

+ Prayer of Dedication

Hopeful God, Originator of all Gifts, this day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving you and your children. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 1:5-25 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Peace, Peace”

Chancel Choir + Ann Hartley, flute

Sermon

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.

HYMN No. 697 (3 times)

“Eat This Bread”

Holy Communion

Invitation

Remembrance

Invocation

Holy God, descend your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape, whether on this table or in the homes of your people, that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ.

Pour out your Spirit upon us so that we might be reflections of your likeness in a hurting world so that others might know the blessings of living in communion with you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

+ Sharing of the Elements

The Lord’s Table is open to all. Today, we will come forward, through the center aisle, where Rev Nicholas will place a piece of bread in your hand. Communion stewards next to the pastor will be holding trays containing both white grape juice, and red wine. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Additionally, communion stewards will make their way through the sanctuary offering communion for those unable to come forward.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of banquets and feasts, Lord of simple meals and empty seats, we give you thanks for joining us at your table. May the bread and cup, awaken our hunger for justice, and thirst for righteous. May this meal, serve as a foretaste of your reign. May you bless us on our journey towards peace, this day and always. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 153

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

+ Benediction

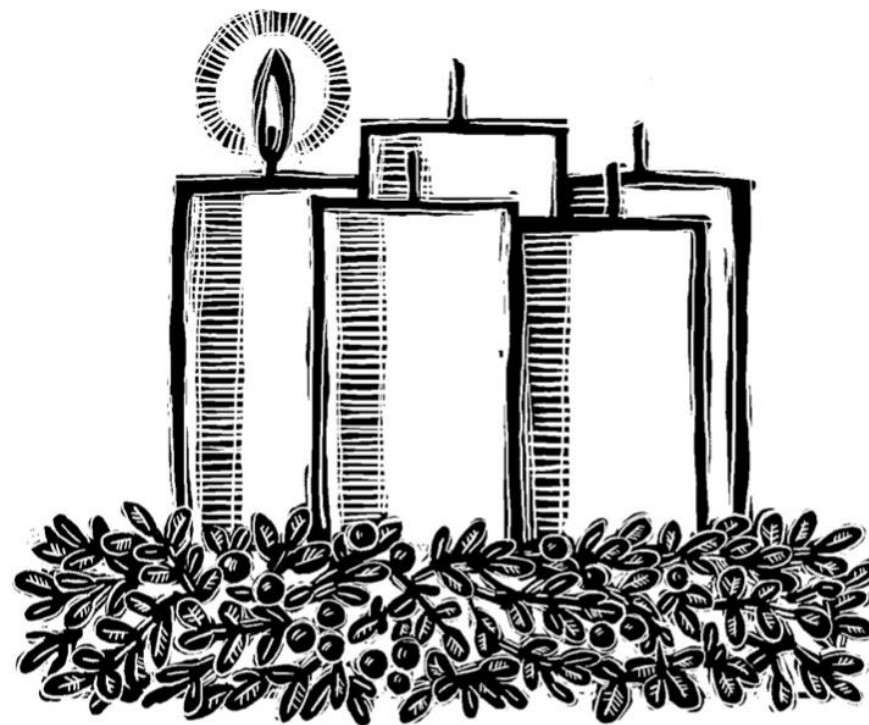
+ Postlude

“Sing Ye With Gladness”

Nordman

Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-1c-december-1/>

We commit ourselves...
to worship God
to form faithful followers of Jesus
and to care for our wider community.
We care as Christ cares.



+ The 1st Sunday in Advent +
December 1, 2024 + 9:00 a.m.
Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri

Please take the Sunday News home with you for information and happenings during the week at Zion Church.

SUNDAY NEWS

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Communion Sunday - We practice Open Communion here at Zion UCC. Jesus didn't turn anyone away; neither will we. Everyone is invited to come and share in the receiving of the bread and the cup.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Karen Stafford

Ushers: Dan Mossoney & Jane Wilson Greeter: Kevin Vorderbruegge
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Karen Tucker, Connie Thompson
Sound System: Jason Dewert Camera Techs: Blake & Camden Dewert
(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

Usher Dismissal - An usher will dismiss you by row at the conclusion of the service. They will begin at the front.

Coffee/Fellowship Hour will be in the lower commons each Sunday following the worship service.

Disaster Relief - As the United Church of Christ continues relief efforts for Hurricane Helene and responds to Hurricane Milton, we invite you to give to the **Hurricanes 2024 Appeal**. Your gift will make a direct impact, providing relief to those suffering, rebuilding homes, and helping restore communities. Together, we can extend the support and hope so desperately needed during this time. Offering envelopes are available by the offering plate for your monetary gifts. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross - The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, helps with health premiums and Christmas 'thank you' gift checks each December to lower-income retirees. The Christmas Fund is managed by the Pension Boards of the UCC. Offering envelopes were provided in the December newsletter for your gifts; additional envelopes can be found next to the offering plate in the narthex.

2024 Church Survey - For those who have not yet filled out the 2024 Church Survey, please take a copy from the ushers table, fill out and place in the offering plate. Thank you!

This Afternoon - Come enjoy the music of the season with the Washington Civic Chorus on Sunday, December 1st at 3 p.m. at St. Peter's UCC in Washington. A reception will follow the concert. You can also visit the Festival of Trees and bring items for local food pantries to vote for your favorite trees!

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Carol Bean	Keith Stahlman
Felicia Scott	Sarah Berghorn	Anne Parker (at Willow Brooke in Union)		
Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)		
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)		Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)		Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)		
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)		Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)		Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Liz Klemme (daughter/sister of Armin, Norma & Phil Klemme)		Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		Beverly Elliott (mother of Mike Elliott)		
Wayne Herring (father of Matt Herring)		Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)		
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)				
Whitney Henle (eye surgery, granddaughter of Susan Merlino)				
Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)				
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		Marvin Huggins (brother-in-law of Barb Harvey)		

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNiell (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Skip Buehrle	Susie Andell
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)
Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Allen Coffman (friend of Shawn Pehle)
Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)	Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)	Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)
Leland Stahlman (brother of Keith Stahlman)	
Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)	

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Hunter Grafrath (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)
Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)

Adult Education Opportunities

This Morning - The JOY Adult Class beings meeting again this morning in the lower commons classroom. They will be discussing the book 'If God is Love Don't Be a Jerk' by John Pavlovitz.

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning - All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; Preschool - ages 3-5 will meet in the Preschool Room (the nursery); Faith Quest - grades kindergarten-5th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; Confirm NOT Conform - grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

Next Sun., Dec. 8 - Intergenerational Sunday School! ALL ages are invited to the Intergenerational Sunday School hour next Sunday, December 8th from 10-11 a.m. in the fellowship hall! We will make Christmas ornaments and decorate cookies.

Faith Quest Christmas Program Rehearsals - The annual Faith Quest Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15th during the 9 a.m. worship service. **Rehearsals** will be this morning at 10 a.m. and on Wednesdays, December 4th and 11th at 5 p.m.

Church Calendar - December 1, 2024 to December 8, 2024

Today -	The 1st Sunday in Advent
	9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
	10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Fellowship Hour
Wed., Dec. 4 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
	5:00 p.m. LOGOS
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
Thurs., Dec. 5 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
	6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., Dec. 6 -	6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Dec. 8 -	The 2nd Sunday in Advent
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

Wednesday Night Activities - Schedule for the first TWO Wednesdays of every month (through April)

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Adults: (Re) Membership with Pastor Nick: Join the conversation on what it means to be a member of Zion and a member of the UCC, and discuss the historical legacy of the denomination and our church.

Youth: LOGOS programming for K-12th grade youth with Mandy & Alysha.

Preschool: Hallelujah Kids music exploration, movement, and games for kids aged 2-kindergarten with Karen.

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:45 -7:30 p.m.

LOGOS Games continue for Youth

7:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Next Sun., Dec. 8 - Donations Needed! - The Green Team will be at the Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 8th with green ideas for gift wrapping. Donations of any size/kind fabric, ribbon, yarn, raffia and twine are needed. There is a box in the lower commons for your donations.

Next Sun., Dec. 8 - Intergenerational Sunday School - During the Intergenerational Sunday School hour in the fellowship hall next Sunday, December 8th, we will make Christmas ornaments and decorate cookies.

Next Sun., Dec. 8 - Giving Tree 2024 - This year's recipients for the Giving Tree come from Loving Hearts, The Lutheran Family & Children's Services of Missouri, and The Franklin County Foster Closet. Giving Tree tags are now available on the little tree by the lower commons bulletin board. Pick up a tag, buy the gift, and return it unwrapped to the church by **next Sunday, December 8th**.

Wed., Dec. 11 - Polar Express Dinner Train! - Throw on your pajamas and join us at our annual Polar Express Dinner Train on Wednesday, December 11 with dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited! RSVP to the Church Office. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO LOGOS on December 18th - there was an error in the newsletter for December.**

Sat., Dec. 14 - Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed! Salvation Army Bell Ringers are needed for Saturday, December 14th from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Schnuck's in Union. A sign up sheet is posted on the lower commons bulletin board. Thank you!

Wed., Dec. 18 - Orders for Christmas Poinsettias can be made through the church office until December 18th. Cost of the poinsettias is \$18 per plant. In lieu of a poinsettia, monetary donations are being received for the Union Food Pantry/Little Food Pantry.