

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7 CEB

Poem

from *Milk and Honey*
by Rupi Kaur

Love Candle

Special Music

“Meditation from Thais” Massenet
Theo Bockhorst, violin + Henry Giles, pianist

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20 CEB

Poem

by Padraig O’ Tuama

Christ Candle

Special Music

“Syncopation” Kreisler
Theo Bockhorst, violin + Henry Giles, pianist

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. 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

Bountiful God, receive these gifts, extend their reach, and magnify their impact for your glory and for your creation. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 218

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“The Newborn King”

Martin

The Opening Prayer and Candle Lighting Liturgy were written by Enfleshed, (Spiritual Nourishment for Collective Liberation) Enfleshed.com

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/christmas-eve-day-c-december-24-25/>

Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849

Home Page address is: www.zionunion.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday–8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry

Organist: Brenda Herring

Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson

Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick

Council President: Fern Dewert

Church Custodian: Joy Bradley


We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



BEHOLD,
I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF
GREAT
JOY

LUKE 2:10

+ The 1st Sunday in Christmas +

December 29, 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 29, 2024

Serving This Morning

Ushers: Susan Merlino, Ken & Carol Rohrbach Greeter: Linda Kroeter
Sound System: Jason Dewert Camera Techs: Blake & Camden Dewert
(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

A special 'thank you' to Theo Bockhorst (grandson of Vicki Hooper) and Henry Giles for their Special Music this morning.

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.

2025 Offering Envelopes are now available in the upper commons. If you do not have any envelopes and would like them, please contact the church office. Thank you.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzen	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Carol Bean	Keith Stahlman
Sarah Berghorn	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)	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)				
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)		
Wayne Herring (father of Matt Herring)		Beverly Elliott (mother of Mike Elliott)		
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)		Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)		
Whitney Henle (eye surgery, granddaughter of Susan Merlino)				
Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)		Jake Phillips (father of John Phillips)		
Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		Marvin Huggins (brother-in-law of Barb Harvey)		

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNeil (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

Please Note - There is NO Faith Quest this morning.

Next Sun., Jan. 5 - 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.

Church Calendar - December 29, 2024 to January 5, 2025

Today -	The 1st Sunday in Christmas 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Mon., Dec. 30 -	10:00 a.m. January newsletter assembled (fellowship hall)
Tues., Dec. 31 -	Church Office will be open until 12 noon
Wed., Jan. 1 -	New Year's Day Church Offices will be closed
Thurs., Jan. 2 -	6:30p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., Jan. 3 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Jan. 5 -	The 2nd Sunday in Christmas 9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Fellowship Hour

Tues., Dec. 31 - Church Office will be open until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 31st.

Do you have Christmas lights that are no longer working? Bring them to church to be recycled! The Green Team will take them to Earthbound Recycling in Eureka -- and all funds we earn will go toward local missions. There is a box in the Lower Commons for your contributions. Thank you!

Help Thyself Meals - HELP THYSELF meals program has had two successful years with the endeavor and we plan to continue as a service to those that need a bit of support in the future. These meals are for anyone in need of a bit of help with meals during the week. We want you to help yourself. The meals and simple desserts are in the freezer in the kitchen in the Lower Commons kitchen. This is a reminder to mark the chart on the front of the freezer for taking meals or bring meals to donate to those in need. If anyone needs assistance in receiving meals please contact one of these people: Kathy Young (314-580-3105), Carol Rohrbach, (636-583-3659), Ann Hartley (636-346-5921), Dorothy Mitana (636-239-1296), Jane Ridder (314-520-7090) and Maxine Harrison (636-583-2159)

Little Food Pantry - Thank you for the great support in keeping the Little Food Pantry going! A list of the most needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the lower commons. Monetary donations can also be given - contact the church office.

Little Free Library - Just a reminder that Zion has a Little Free Library located close to the corner of Washington and Springfield Avenue. If you have any gently used adult/children's books please feel free to drop them in the free library or drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

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