

The 2nd Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024

9:00 a.m.

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

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Variations on ‘Hyfrydol’”* Price

Call to Worship

Underneath life’s expanding shadows,

We call out “Pave the way for our God!”

On the dusty roads of life’s wilderness

We call out “Pave the way for our God!”

As we near the top of mountains, rejoicing under the sunlight,

We call out “Pave the way for our God!”

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy Fountain of Compassion, deep in the heart of this journey, we search for peace-filled moments of contemplation. We crave the peace that is found in the stillness of prayer. As we share this time with you, may we experience your beloved tranquility, knowing that our petitions bring us closer to you and our neighbors. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 655 *“Come Away from Rush and Hurry”*

Candle Lighting Liturgy

BJ, Danielle, Logan, Drew & Oliver Cooper

The Peace of God-With-Us does not come as law and order, or enforcement and control. Peace cannot be imposed from on high. Peace cannot be commanded. The Peace of God-With-Us is chaotic, wild, unruly, and unpredictable.

The Peace of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complicity. Peace is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Peace invites our expectations and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for peace with justice. May Peace be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

Musical 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 Blissful Serenity, as you move about your Realm on Earth, you desire our prayers to come alive. Knowing the hopes of our hearts, you call us to create action that will help our neighbors. Yet, there are times we continue to pray in mind only, never fulfilling our calling to care for our neighbors. What we forget is that joy abounds when we can transform a prayer from thoughts to concrete actions, blessing our siblings across our world. Amen.

Words of Grace

When we bring alive our prayers, we experience Christ in our midst. May we embrace the grace of God and initiate opportunities to care for God’s children with open hearts.

By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Praise be to God! Amen.

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

God of All Peace, we give thanks each time we remember your gifts in our lives. Our gratitude extends to the ways we can use our gifts of time, talent, and treasures. May your boundless wisdom compel us to use our energies in ways that will share the most love in our world. Amen.

Affirmation of Ministry

Greeting

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 particular 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 services, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular 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.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different 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

Installation of Officers

+ To the Congregation

Beloved Zion, members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Please rise in body or in spirit.

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 Christ Jesus.

Decommissioning of Officers

Today we also celebrate and honor the end of service on the council for Maxine Harrison. At the end of the year, her time on the council will come to an end. Having faithfully served the church of Jesus Christ, here at Zion United Church of Christ, we thank her for her service and her leadership. We wish Maxine well as she enters this time of Sabbath as she steps down from their roles. Thank you.

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 you among us with honor and faithfulness. Help BJ, Bruce, and Fern to diligently perform their duties so that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May the Holy Spirit strengthen them for the ministry of council here at Zion. Be with Maxine as she graciously steps away from the council and as she discerns where God is calling

her to serve in this season of life. May her example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry to the glory of your name, Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 1:26- 38 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

"The Canticle of the Turning"

Cooney

Jeanne Lischer, soloist

Chorus:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring

Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near

And the world is about to turn!

Sermon

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.

+ Closing Hymn No. 160 *"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *"Festival of Peace"*

Hughes

Service Prayers for the Second 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-2c-december-8/>

Candle Lighting Liturgy © enflashed 2018, Rev. Anna Blaedel.

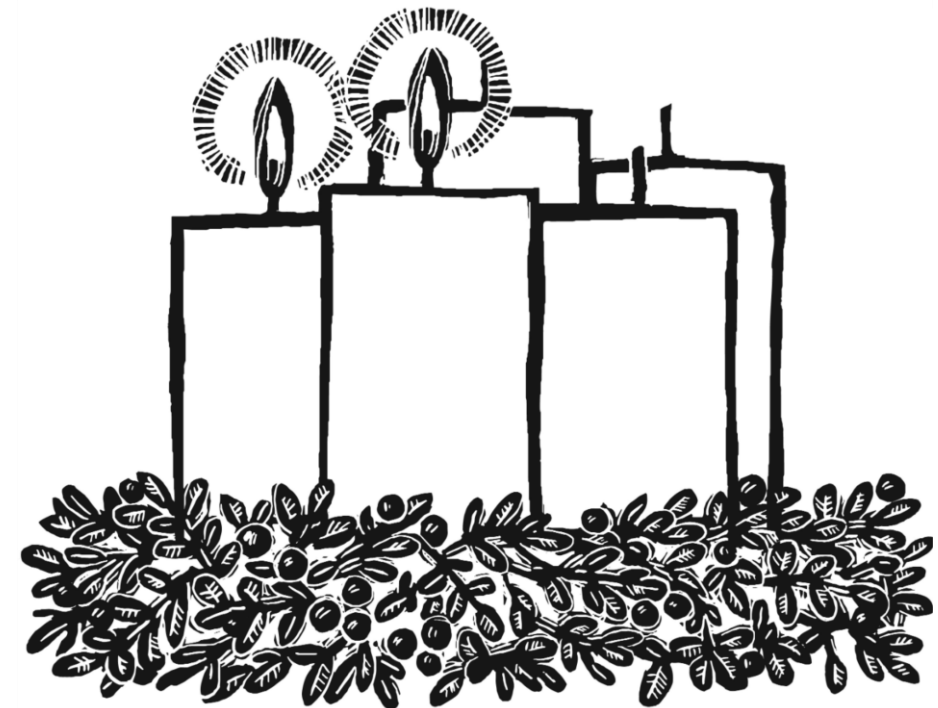
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ The 2nd Sunday in Advent +

December 8, 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 8, 2024

Serving This Morning

Ushers: Dan Mossoney & Jane Wilson Greeters: Carl & Jane Ridder
Advent Candle Lighters: BJ, Danielle, Logan, Drew & Oliver Cooper
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 Morning - Intergenerational Sunday School - During the Intergenerational Sunday School hour in the fellowship hall this morning, we will make Christmas ornaments and decorate cookies.

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 Yenzer	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)				
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 - ***Intergenerational Sunday School!*** ALL ages are invited to the Intergenerational Sunday School hour this morning 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. ***Final rehearsal*** will be on Wednesday, December 11th at 5 p.m.

Church Calendar – December 8, 2024 to December 15, 2024

Today -	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
Wed., Dec. 11 -	9:30 a.m. Called to Care (classroom)
	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
	5:00 p.m. LOGOS – POLAR EXPRESS NIGHT!
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
Thurs., Dec. 12 -	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle
	5:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., Dec. 13 -	6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Dec. 15 -	The 3rd Sunday in Advent
	9:00 a.m. Worship/Faith Quest Christmas Program
	10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Fellowship Hour

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.***

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.

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 - This is a gentle reminder to make use of the Help Thyself meals for you. That is what they are for.....YOU. In the Lower Commons kitchen there are in the freezer, meals, soups and simple desserts. If you are able to pick up a couple of meals for your week ahead, please do so. If unable to pick them up a church friend can do it for you or a Call to Care member would be happy to bring them to you when they come to visit. Please take advantage of this opportunity available to you. Let any of the following people know if you know of someone that needs assistance. 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!

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)