

Epiphany

January 5, 2025

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 *“Raise Now Your Song on High”* Saint-Saens

Call to Worship (Inspired by Sirach 24)

Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
She brings worlds into being and illuminates the night sky with stars in the heavens.

Wisdom declares herself and tells of her might in the midst of her people.

She strengthens her children and grants peace to the peoples.

Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
She bestows grace and redemption and makes mystery known. Praise Wisdom!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Radiant One, your majesty awes us, and your righteousness humbles us. Shine your light amongst us as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

John 1:1-18 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 231 *“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, all things came into being through you. You enlighten our lives. Yet, we are drawn to shadows and veils. We distance ourselves from the conditions of oppression and despair of our neighbors, and we hide from your displeasure and disappointment at our limited allegiance to the kin-dom. Ignite a hunger and thirst for righteousness, justice, and truth in us. Spark compassion in our hearts. Make us a righteous branch in the vineyard. In the name of Jesus and hope of restoration, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, trust that the grace of God has appeared, bringing new life to all. Receive the gifts of grace and mercy from the Compassionate One who recognizes your repentance, comes to you in your weakness, offers strength for transformation, provides encouragement for repair, and grants forgiveness for sin.

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. 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

Giving God, may these gifts reveal your greatness, generosity, and glory. We give thanks for the privilege of being in communal and covenantal care with our neighbors as manifested by the sharing of resources. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”

arr. Niles

Kirk Hancox, soloist

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.

An Affirmation of Faith - United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death. God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation

Remembrance

Invocation

Come Holy Spirit, come, move across this table, across this grain and grape, across our very lives renewing and refreshing us for the journey to come. We have gathered at your table ready for a foretaste of your reign of justice, love, and peace. Bless these elements and each of us in service of your realm, 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

Loving God, we give you thanks for inviting us to this meal. May we always remember your love for us has no bounds. May we always embody the love you have given us. And may we go from this table ready to join you in your reign of reconciling love and renewing peace through all the world. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 229 *"The First Noel"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *"Celebrate Christmas"* Hughes

Service Prayers for Christmas 2C/Epiphany 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-2c-epiphany-january-5/>

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

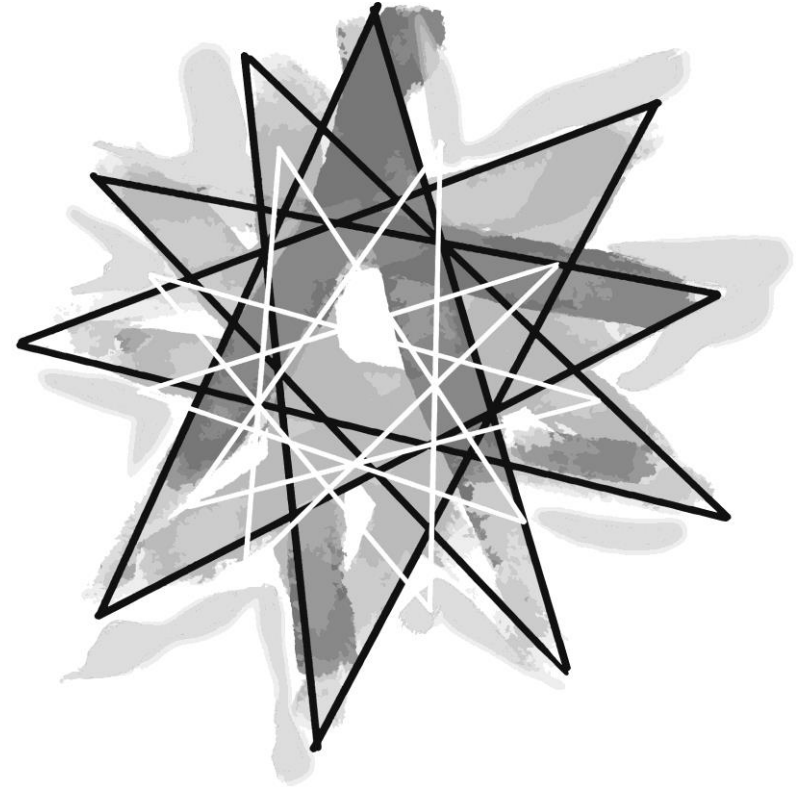
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ Epiphany +

January 5, 2025 + 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

JANUARY 5, 2025

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: Carol Rohrbach
Ushers: Skip & Pat Buehrle Greeter: Jane Pinnell
Sound System: Ken Rohrbach Camera Tech: Dan Mossoney
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Ron & Pam Griffin
(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.

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.

Historical Display - Eden Seminary (Part 1) is on display in the Historical Display Case during the month of January. Stop by to view photos of its first two locations.

Christmas decorations will be taken down following the worship service this morning.

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)		
Norma Laubinger (sister of Hettie Becker)		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)		
Eileen Lischer (mother of Jeanne Lischer)		Whitney Henle (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 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.

Church Calendar – January 5, 2025 to January 12, 2025

Today -	The 2nd Sunday in Christmas	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship/Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education/Fellowship Hour
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas decorations taken down
Wed., Jan. 8 -	12:00 noon	Loops of Love (lower commons)
	5:00 p.m.	LOGOS
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Jan. 9 -	8:00 a.m.-12 noon	Quilting Circle
	1:00 p.m.	Historical Team (historical room)
Fri., Jan. 10 -	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in use
Sat. Jan. 11 -	4:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Jan. 12 -	Baptism of the Lord	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
	10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Sunday School (fellowship hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Green Team (classroom)

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

Sun., Jan. 19 – Zion Cemetery Association Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th in the sanctuary. The agenda will include: election of new Zion Cemetery Board members, a change in the by-laws for the Treasurer's position on the Board, and a review of the financial statement of the Zion Cemetery.

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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