

The 1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

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 *"He Comes to Us"* Martin

Call to Worship

As the sun rises on this new season, we turn within and ask God to renew hope in each one of us.

For the sake of my relatives and friends, proclaim with joy, "Let us go to the house of our God and find hope within!"

Though the days are hard, and the news is grim, we turn to our siblings here, asking them to trust God, as we have so many times in the past.

For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy, "Peace be within the walls of this house, that our hope might spread beyond!"

In our fears and our desperation, in our exhaustion and our pain, God wraps us in bands of hope, holding us together so we may continue the struggle for justice and peace.

For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy, "I will seek all that is good within the house of God, and I will carry it with me wherever I go!"

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Emmanuel, we come here today to renew ourselves in the generosity of God's hope. We will climb the mountain hand in hand that we may learn again of God's promise to be with us, both in the valley and on the peaks. Let us set down our despair and rest in the light of God until we are renewed! Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10 NRSVUE

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

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 154 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Lighting the Candle of Hope

BJ, Danielle, Logan, Drew & Oliver Cooper

Today, we light the candle of Hope. We think of Hope as anticipation of something future, but in truth, Hope can be the incarnation of trust. We trust in our Wonderful Counselor – that when we seek guidance, we will find answers. We trust that when we are exhausted, our Emmanuel will send someone to carry our burdens for a while. We trust our Creator to renew our faith in community, in the goodness of others, and in the power of our empathy and action.

We trust in our Beloved God, that, when everything around us seems too difficult, too broken, too devastating for us to put to rights on our own, Hope will appear, and we rush forward, arms open wide to receive grace.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, it is not a year abundant with hope. We cry out for solace, for rest, for strength; we curse in anger at the horrors we see perpetrated in your name; we turn our backs on those who suffer, and we scorn those who bring suffering upon others. We are lost and demoralized, aching for the hope in your Word, and yet when you speak, we do not hear. We do not quiet the spirit within or allow your peace to fall upon us. We root ourselves in devastation when true strength is born out of your tender grace. Forgive us, God, for abandoning hope in favor of fear and a desire for retribution.

Words of Grace

God does not turn us away when we falter. We are, instead, taken in and given sanctuary so that we may revive in God's tender mercy.

God will be our shelter while we rest, as well as when we are ready, once again, to rise up. Thanks 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

Beloved Creator, we offer these gifts to you in the spirit of Hope. We place our trust in you and in those who faithfully care for your people, that these gifts will be used to protect and uplift those who are in need. Help us to remember our role to act as agents of your grace each and every day. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 1:1-17 CEB

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

Thanks be to God!

Hymn No. 621

“For the Healing of the Nations”

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.

+ Closing Hymn No. 424

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Come, Blessed One, Come”

Paxton

Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent, Year A was written by Maria Mankin.
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-1a-november-30/>

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



— HOPE —

+ The 1st Sunday of Advent +

November 30, 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

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alysha Petry
Ushers: Alan & Sharon TenEyck Greeter: Kevin Vorderbruegge
Sound Tech: Dan Mossoney
Advent Candlelighters: BJ, Danielle, Logan, Drew & Oliver Cooper
(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.

Advent Workshop - All are invited to the Advent Workshop this morning following the worship service in the fellowship hall where the group will make ornaments and decorate Christmas cookies. **ALSO**: The Green Team will be at the Advent Workshop. Come explore the many ways you can use fabric to wrap gifts instead of paper (most of which cannot be recycled).

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Charlotte Ellison
Brenda Viehland	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Myrt Dunigan
Hettie Becker	Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		
Anne Parker (at Aspen Valley Fox Crest in Washington)	Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)	Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)		
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)		
Heather Frederick (niece of Marilyn Freiermuth)	Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)		
Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)	Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)		
Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)	Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)	Pat Pappas (sister of Jim Doehring)		
Vivian Diener (cousin of Hettie Becker)	Marilyn Fish (aunt of Carla Kilgore)		

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Linda Kroeter	Jake McNeil (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
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)
Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)	Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)	Erica Sterling (friend of Amy Dewert)
Sammie Baker (friend of Brenda Viehland)	Sharon Birke (sister of Ron Griffin)

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Pat & Scott Buehrle, Shanna Brinker, Sammi Blankenship & families on the death of their husband and father Skip who died on Wednesday, November 26th.

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)

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Sunday - All Sunday School classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall for the Advent Event.

Faith Quest Christmas Program Rehearsals - The annual Faith Quest Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 14th during the 9 a.m. worship service. **Rehearsals** will be this morning at 10 a.m. and on Wednesdays, December 3rd and 10th at 5 p.m. during LOGOS and Sunday, December 7th during the Faith Quest hour.

Church Calendar – November 30, 2025 to December 7, 2025

Today -	The 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Advent Workshop
Mon., Dec. 1 -	7:00 p.m. Lower Commons classroom in use
Wed., Dec. 3 -	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 5:00 p.m. LOGOS 5:00 p.m. Faith Quest Christmas Program Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (chapel)
Thurs., Dec. 4	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Fri., Dec. 5 -	10:00-4:00 p.m. Lower Commons in use 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., Dec. 7 -	The 2nd Sunday of Advent/Communion 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour

Giving Tree – This year’s Giving Tree has tags for 20 children in our area. The tags are available for pick up on the Giving Tree in the lower commons. Grab a tag off the tree and return the ***unwrapped gift with the tag*** buy Wednesday, December 10th.

Washington Civic Chorus Christmas Concert – Next Sun., Dec. 7 – The Washington Civic Chorus 91st Annual Christmas Concert will be next Sunday, December 7th at 3 p.m. at St. Peter’s UCC in Washington. After the concert enjoy a reception and the Festival of Trees. Bring items for local food pantries to vote for your favorite trees.

Polar Express – Wed., Dec. 10 – Everyone is invited to join the annual Polar Express Dinner Train on Wednesday, December 10th at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to the Church Office by next Sunday, December 7th.

Winter Care Packages Assembled – Sun., Dec. 14 – Winter care packages for the Little Free Pantry will be assembled during the Intergenerational Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 14th following the worship service.

Meditative Drum Circle – The next Meditative Drum Circle will be on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:15 p.m.

A Request from the Quilters – Zion Quilters are asking if you or anyone you know has quilts that need to be quilted to please contact the church office or one of the quilters. Thank you!

Hope Ranch of Missouri will be accepting several new teen girls as residents in the next few weeks. Needed supplies include: shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, body wash or bar soap, feminine hygiene products, facial tissue toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair brushes. In addition, household cleaning supplies are needed to replenish stores to save money for other uses. Supplies include: paper towels, microfiber cleaning cloths, Mr. Clean kitchen sponges, Dawn dish soap, dishwasher tables, rinse aid for dishwashers, all-purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Swiffer refills, 33-gal trash bags, windex, toilet bowl cleaner. Please consider a donation of the above items and drop them off at the church office. Thank you!

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)

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