

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 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 *“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”* Wells

Call to Worship

The people have walked in the shadows. The light now shines.

Rejoice and sing a new song of great joy!

Nations war against nations and among themselves. Yet, the light of peace, justice, and love illuminates the path of the righteous remnant.

Rejoice and declare the glory of God in the land of the living.

Creation groans with the strain of use, misuse, and neglect. Yet, the light of resilience will not be dimmed on the earth.

Rejoice and witness the seas roar, the land rest, and the wind breathe.

Rejoice for the glory comes and God is with us!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray,

Spirit of Love, we welcome you. We celebrate your coming to abide with us. And we remember the ways you have been faithfully accompanying us since the beginning. It was you who wove all life together. Your glory is painted across all of creation.

Throughout history, over and over again, you have taken on flesh, in the ordinary and the extraordinary, in the vulnerability of infants, the fierce proclamations of prophets, and the enduring hope of those who persevere under evil’s threats. Where there is grief, where there is holy

rage, where there is fear or sacred imagination growing, you abide across the ages.

Bless our time together, as we remember again the still-unfolding story of your love: A love that comes to dwell among us. A love that surprises and disrupts. A love that reveals the way of liberation. May it be so among us. 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.

Reflection

The First Lesson

Matthew 1:1-17 CEB

Poem *“A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark”* by Jan Richardson

Hope Candle

Carol No. 182 (vss. 1 & 3) *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

The Second Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25 CEB

Poem *“Christmas Light”* by May Sarton

Peace Candle

Carol No. 189 *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”*

The Third Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

Poem *“Don’t Hesitate”* by Mary Oliver

Joy Candle

Carol No. 179 (vss. 1, 2 & 4) *“Joy to the World!”*

The Fourth Lesson Matthew 2:13-18 CEB

Poem from *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur

Love Candle

Hymn No. 185 *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*

The Fifth Lesson Matthew 2:19-23 CEB

Poem by Padraig O’ Tuama

Christ Candle

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. 218 *“Go Tell it on the Mountain”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude *“Tell the Good News”* Smith

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

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson

Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry

Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick

Organist: Brenda Herring

Council President: Fern Dewert

Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

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.

HOPE
PEACE
LOVE
JOY 

+ The 1st Sunday after Christmas +

December 28, 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

DECEMBER 28, 2025

Serving This Morning

Ushers: Susan Merlino & Karen Tucker Greeter: Sandy Bailey
Sound Tech: 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.

2026 Offering Envelopes are now available in the upper commons. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like either weekly or monthly, please contact the church office.

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 | Sarah Berghorn | 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) | | |
| Marilyn Fish (aunt of Carla Kilgore) | Jamie Koch (friend of Hettie Becker) | | |

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) | |

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

Please Note - There is NO Faith Quest this morning. The JOY Adult Class will not meet this morning.

Next Sun., Jan. 4, 2026 - All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; **Faith Quest** - preschool through 6th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; grades 7-12 will meet in the high school room.

Adult Education

This Morning - There is no JOY Adult Class this morning. JOY Adult Class will meet again on January 4, 2026.

Church Calendar – December 28, 2025 to January 4, 2026

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|----------------------------|--|
| Today - | The 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour |
| Mon., Dec. 29 - | Church Offices will close at noon |
| Wed., Dec. 31 - | Church Offices will close at noon |
| Thurs., Jan. 1 - | New Year's Day Church Offices will be closed 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use |
| Fri., Jan. 2 - | Church Offices will be closed 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use |
| Next Sun., Jan. 4 - | The 2nd Sunday after Christmas 9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour |

Church Office Holiday Hours - Mon., Dec. 29 & Wed., Dec. 31 – closing at noon; Thurs., Jan. 1 & Fri., Jan. 2 – church offices are closed.

Green Team LOGOS Adult Education Forum – Wed., Jan. 7 – The Green Team invites everyone to attend a forum about Missouri waterways on Wednesday, January 7, at 5pm. Cheri Becker from the Department of Conservation will share information about Missouri's vast watersheds and ways we can care for them. Following the presentation, dinner will be served at 6pm. Please RSVP for dinner by emailing Alysha at apetry@zionunion.org or calling the church office.

Volunteers Needed to Take Down Christmas Decorations – Sun., Jan. 11 – Volunteers are needed to help take down Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 11th following the morning worship service. It typically takes about an hour to de-decorate the church. Thank you!

CASA Volunteers Needed - CASA of Mideast Missouri advocates for children in foster care in Franklin, Gasconade, and Osage Counties who have experienced abuse or neglect. Trained Volunteer Advocates spend one-on-one time with these children, understanding their needs and concerns to advocate for them in court, ensuring their journey in foster care is safe and supported. There are children in our area who need a CASA! The next CASA volunteer training session will begin at the end of January with an **application deadline of Jan. 9th**. To APPLY, donate, or learn more about CASA please visit casamideastmo.org or call 636-583-4422.

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!

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