

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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                    *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*                    Ritter

Call to Worship

At the start of every day, God shakes us awake to the possibility of reconciliation and joyful abundance.

**May our Great Redeemer, who judges all with righteousness, reward the tyrannized with justice.**

In every season, God tends to the child within us, bringing into harmony all distress and despair.

**May our Beloved Emmanuel defend the cause of the deprived, give deliverance to the abused, and overwhelm the will of their persecutors.**

Throughout all generations, God bestows upon the people a peace that is everlasting.

**May the Prince of Peace rain down blessed mercy upon the people, showering the earth with righteousness and peace.**

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest of our daily lives. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale the turmoil within.**

First Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5 NRSVUE

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

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn No. 182                    *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Phyliss Fink & Elsie Saake

Today we light the Candle of Peace. There is a hush in our hearts as we wait to feel the peace of God envelop us. We imagine it as delicate as a lily’s petals opening, as a blanket pulled snug beneath our chin, as a breeze shaking the oak’s branches on a sunny morning. We expect peace to come gently, but when has anything worthwhile come without pain? A baby cries in birth as the mother sweats and shakes. Imperfect compromises leave both sides vulnerable. A voice that rallies us to change is often silenced too soon. Striving for peace is no different. It is fierce, and loud, and it requires tenacity. Peace is complicated. Peace is a sip of water after the longest night.

**Peace is the flame within that we must keep lit for the sake of all. Peace is the hush, and it is the clatter. Peace is God’s love, acted out loud.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gentle God, it has been too long since your people have known peace. We turn away from the ugliness hidden behind closed doors, from the ravages of war, from the famine and genocide that stalk our siblings around the world.

**We’ve lost hope, lost our faith in the possibility of a small act’s power to change. We talk and talk, all the while forgetting that we are not just your mouthpiece, but your hands and feet. Remind us, Redeemer, how to show up for justice. Teach us how to transform this ragged hope into peace for all. Amen.**

## Words of Grace

God does not judge based on our insecurities, but on the promise rooted within each of us. Hope is as robust as ever when we study God's image in the mirror. Peace is not only a possibility but is the ultimate work of God's people.

**In faith, we rise and fall and rise again, knowing that our Redeemer will never stumble or disappoint. Praise be to God!**

## 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](http://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

**Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and our world. On every street corner, beside rivers, lakes, oceans, at the top of your tallest mountains, and dwelling below the cliffs, your people are in need. Take these gifts to strengthen our church and bring relief to your beloved children. Amen.**

## Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25 CEB

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

**Thanks be to God!**

## Special Music

*“Cool Night, Quiet Night”*

Chancel Choir

## 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.**

Hymn of Preparation No. 695 “As We Gather at Your Table”

## Holy Communion

### Invitation

### Communion Prayer

**Gracious and Eternal God, we share this meal as a symbol of Peace. In each of us, we find the beloved, the follower, the doubter, and the betrayer, and yet we know that we are welcome at this table. This meal is open to all, that it may offer sustenance as well as refuge. May we leave this table refreshed, ready to take your radical ministry of extravagant hope, everlasting peace, exuberant joy, and abundant love into the world. Amen.**

### Remembrance

### Invocation

So, we pray once more:

**Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your peace. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may act in service of hope, peace, joy, and love for the furtherance of your will in all the world. Amen.**

### Breaking of the Bread and the 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. (All Bread is Gluten-Free) 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 following Communion

Let us pray,

**O God, beyond these walls, the world needs peace. We leave this table with the exquisite peace of Christ. We carry it boldly and spread it to all those we meet, knowing that God is within us, strengthening the light of the world. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn No. 153      *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*  
The closing hymn is sung in loving memory of **Skip Buehrle**.

+ Benediction

+ Postlude      *“On This Glad Day”*      Scarlatti

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Raised Above: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year A was written by Maria Mankin. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-2a-december-7/>

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent +  
December 7, 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 7, 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: Sue Leicht  
Ushers: Dan Mossoney & Jane Wilson Greeter: Marilyn Freiermuth  
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Alan & Sharon TenEyck  
Sound Tech: Jason Dewert Camera Techs: Blake & Camden Dewert  
Advent Candlelighters: Phyllis Fink & Elsie Saake  
(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.

**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.

**Washington Civic Chorus Christmas Concert - This Afternoon** - The Washington Civic Chorus 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Concert will be this afternoon 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.

## 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)		
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)

### **Various Concerns:**

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Faith Quest Christmas Program Rehearsals** – The annual Faith Quest Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> during the 9 a.m. worship service. **Rehearsals** will be this morning during the Faith Quest Hour and on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. during LOGOS.

### Church Calendar – December 7, 2025 to December 14, 2025

<b>Today -</b>	<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Communion</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Christian Education Hour</b>
<b>Wed., Dec. 10 -</b>	9:30 a.m. Called to Care (classroom) 12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons) 5:00 p.m. LOGOS - POLAR EXPRESS 5:00 p.m. Faith Quest Christmas Program Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (chapel)
<b>Thurs., Dec. 11</b>	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Fri., Dec. 12 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Next Sun., Dec. 14 -</b>	<b>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship/Faith Quest Christmas Program</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour/Intergenerational Sunday School</b>

**Polar Express – Wed., Dec. 10** – Everyone is invited to join the annual Polar Express Dinner Train on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to the Church Office by this morning.

**January 2026 Newsletter Articles Due – Thurs., Dec. 11** – Articles for the January 2026 'Spirit of Zion' newsletter are due in the church office on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Newsletter will be assembled on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. We would like to be able to mail the newsletter before Christmas so the church office staff may take some vacation time. Thank you for your understanding!

**Winter Care Packages Assembled – Next Sun., Dec. 14** – Winter care packages for the Little Free Pantry will be assembled during the Intergenerational Sunday School hour next Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

**Christmas Poinsettias/Benevolent Gifts – Wed., Dec. 17** – Orders for Christmas Poinsettias can be made through the church office until December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Meditative Drum Circle** – The next Meditative Drum Circle will be on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 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 tablets, 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](http://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