

**Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg, PA / [www.zionharrisburg.org](http://www.zionharrisburg.org)**  
**December 21, 2025, Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**10:15am Service of Word and Sacrament and Healing Prayer**

**Welcome & Announcements**

*(During the prelude, you are invited to be in quiet prayer as we prepare to begin our worship of God. It can be an opportunity to pray for people and situations mentioned during the announcements; a time to prepare for confession and forgiveness; and/or a time to be in silence before the Lord.)*

**Prelude** "Sleepers, Wake!" ("Wachet auf") – arr. Johann Gottfried Walther

*Please stand as able*

**Invocation**

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**Confession and Declaration of Grace**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sin to God, our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*Silence for personal confession.*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

**C And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath:**

**“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”**

Blue (WOV) #630, v. 4

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

### **Advent Wreath Lighting Prayer on the 4th Sunday**

**P** Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn**

Hark, The Glad Sound!

Red 6

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes, The Saviour promised long;  
Let every heart prepare a throne, And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release In Satan's bondage held;  
The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.

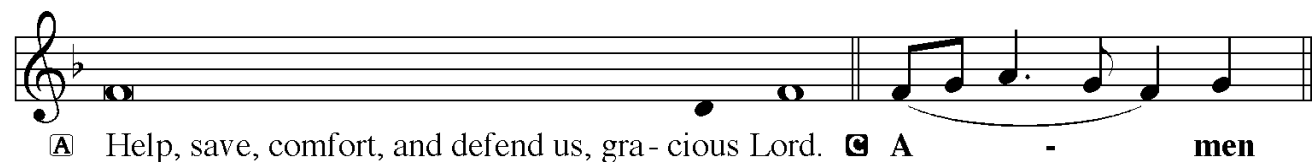
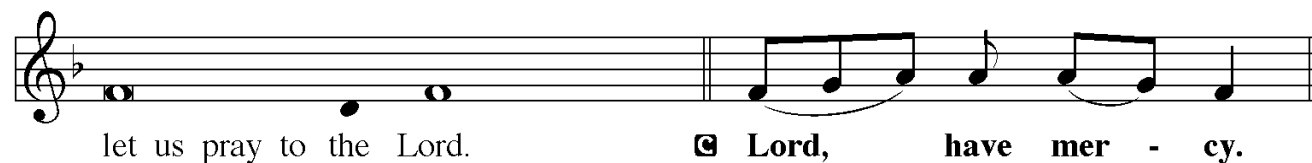
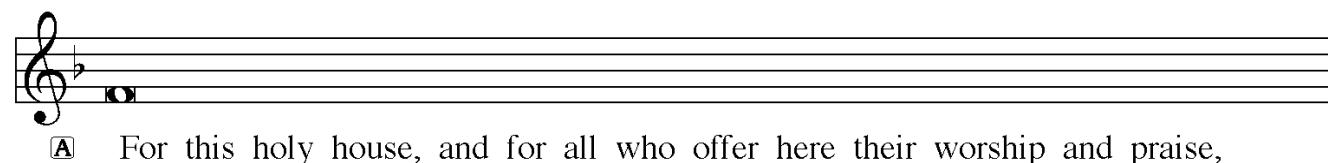
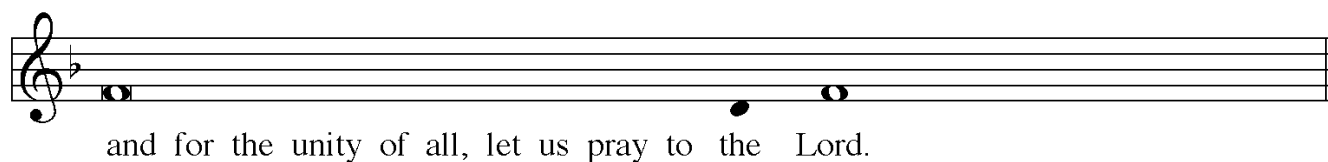
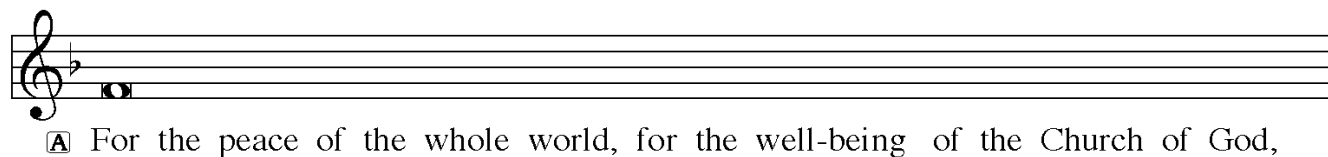
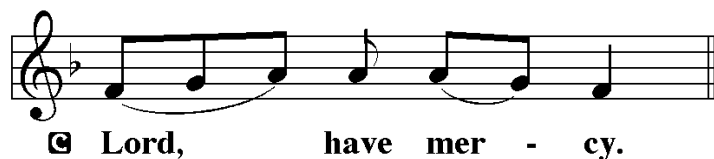
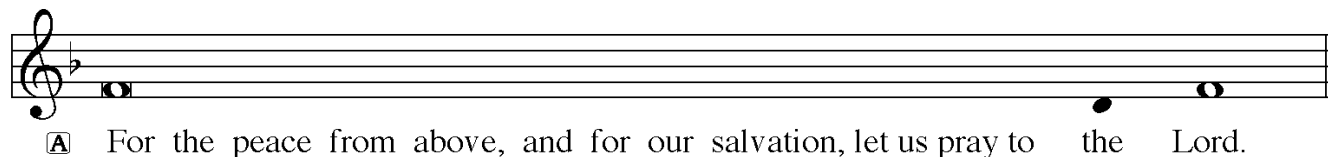
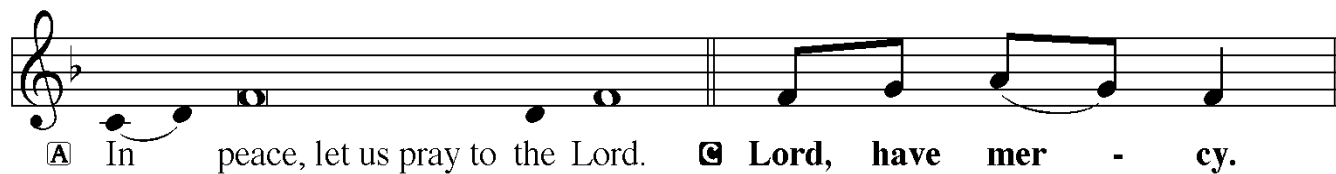
He comes, the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
And heaven's eternal arches ring With thy beloved Name. Amen.

### **Greeting**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**



What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna is given!

**Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray: Gracious God, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, may your Spirit kindle in us patience and peace as we wait for the coming of your Son, and the humility and boldness to proclaim his reign. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Anthem** "I Wonder as I Wander Out Under the Stars" — John Jacob Niles  
Cheryl Crider, soprano

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria!"

**Psalm 24**

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**<sup>2</sup>for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

**<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?**

**<sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.**

**<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

**<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

**<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

**<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

**<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

**<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

### **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

**<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please stand as able*



## **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Doxology**

Sun Sch 625

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## **Children's Sermon**

## **Sermon**

**Anthem** "Love Will Be Born: - Lloyd Larson

Zion Chancel Choir

*Please stand as able*

### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

### **The Prayers**

**P** Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence for prayer*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord in your mercy,

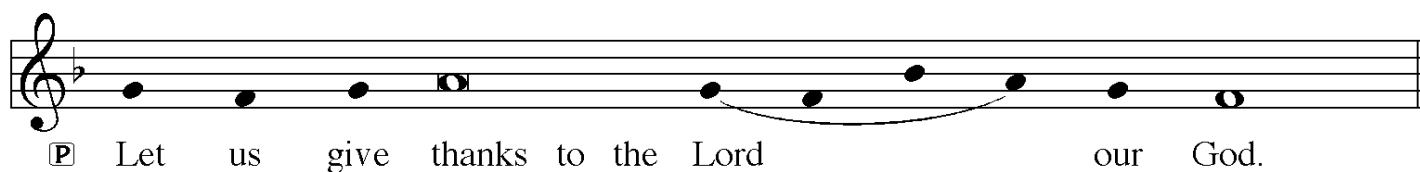
**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

P Blessed are you,  
Lord of Heaven and earth.  
In your mercy for our fallen world  
you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you  
for the salvation  
you have prepared  
for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit  
into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord  
with a living faith  
as he comes to us  
in his holy supper.

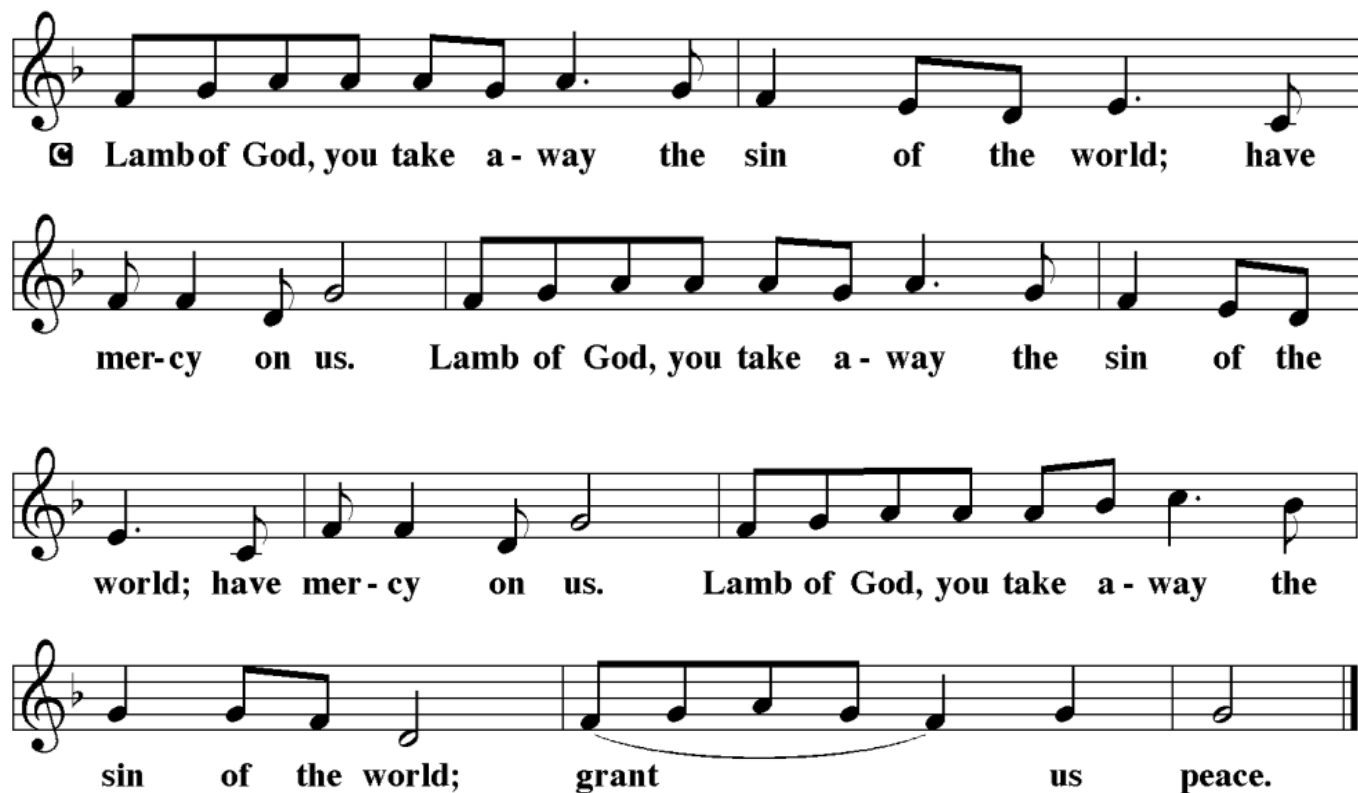
**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P In the night  
in which he was betrayed  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is  
the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**P** This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are they who are called to his supper.



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." The word "Lamb" is misspelled as "Lambof" in the first line. A slur is placed under the word "grant" in the final line.

**L**amb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please be seated*

### **The Communion**

*All baptized persons who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine are welcome to the Table of the Lord. All who would desire healing prayer are welcome to receive it.*

*For those communing in-person, take a clear communion cup to receive wine from the assisting minister or a purple communion cup to receive grape juice.*

*Communion is offered at the altar rail on the pulpit side. Healing prayer with anointing is offered at the altar rail on the lectern side.*

*For those fasting from the sacrament, you are invited to pray the following prayer,  
The Spiritual Communion:*

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually in my heart.  
I embrace You as if you were already there,  
and I unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

*Please stand as able*

### **Post Communion Blessing**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
**C Amen.**

### **Post Communion Sung Response:**

“Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”                      Red 428 (tune 2, vv 1 & 4)

O for a thousand tongues to sing My dear Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His Blood can make the foulest clean, His Blood availed for me.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**P** Let us pray: God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey of faith as we wait and watch for the Lord’s Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.  
**C Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Red 5

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

***A time of fellowship with those attending online directly follows the worship service.***

***Sharing the Peace of Christ with one another following worship is encouraged.***

***Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes at the bottom of each staircase in the main entry way.***

**Serving in Worship Today:**

***Presiding Worship Leader:***

***Minister of Technology:***

***AV on Site:***

***Minister of Music:***

***Vocalists:***

***Lector:***

***Cantor & Responsive Reader:***

***Assisting Ministers:***

**Pastor Karin Pejack**

**Catherine Germann**

**Bob Haas, John Cooper, Erica Jonas**

**Norma Swain**

**Cheryl Crider, Zion Chancel Choir**

**Mike Megoulas**

**Ricky Perrine**

**Mike & Judy Reynolds, Judy Atticks**

**Next Week's Readings:**

Isaiah 63:7-14; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-23

***Notes of Thanks***

Members and Friends of Zion express their gratitude to Norma Swain, Minister of Music, and all the vocalists who sang the cantata last Sunday. The music and message were truly a blessing to us as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth at Christmas!

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

*I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,*

*- Ephesians 1:16*

Todd and I are overwhelmingly blessed by the generous Christmas gift from the church family of Zion. Even more, we are grateful for your prayerful support of us and our family as we are blessed to serve among you.

In the peace and love of Christ,

Pastor Karin & Todd

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, December 21, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**Sunday School – 9:00am (in-person only)**

**Fellowship Class: Teacher – Judy Atticks, meets in the St. Timothy Room, behind the kitchen.**

**10:15am Communion Service**

**Tuesday, December 23**

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT**

Reggie, Nehemiah, family, and friends continue to hold their annual **Christmas packaged lunch distribution from Zion's building**. They will also distribute items to help individuals keep warm in the cold. To support this effort, financial contributions and donation of items are appreciated—please contact Reggie.

**Wednesday, December 24**

**2:00pm AFTERNOON CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

***Validated parking will be available at the Chestnut Street Garage. Street parking will require payment.***

**(NO EVENING SERVICE)**

**1:15pm Cookies & Punch**

**2:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Communion Service (In-Person & Online Zoom & YouTube)**

The worship service will include candle lighting. Please join us for cookies, coffee, and punch before the service. The Zoom link will be emailed and will be available at the church website.

**\*\*\*WOW HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS: Dec. 24 & 31\*\*\***

***WOW attenders are invited to attend the 2pm Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24, see details above.***

***December 31, pre-recorded service & bulletins will be available at Zion's website.***

***WOW Services & Lunch Fellowship resume on Wednesday, January 7, with Communion Service.***

**Sunday, December 28, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Sunday School – 9:00am (in-person only)**

**Fellowship Class: Teacher – Judy Atticks, meets in the St. Timothy Room, behind the kitchen.**

**10:15am Worship Service**

***Communion available at the altar rail directly following worship.***

**Weekly Schedule**

**Sunday (Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and Festivals)**

**9:00am Sunday School (in-person only)**

**9:45am Fellowship (in-person only)**

**10:15am Worship Service (in-person & online)**

**PARKING**

***STREET PARKING IS FREE ON SUNDAYS.***

***VALIDATED PARKING FOR CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS.***

***Beginning Sunday, December 21, Validation will be electronic [not tickets]. Simply drive into the parking garage. Your license plate will be scanned as you enter and exit. Please keep your license plate number and smart phone (if you would like to use it) with you to complete the validation at Zion. There is a smart phone option, and there is an option to validate without a smart phone.***

***OPTION 1: You can enroll at a website provided by Zion from your smart phone. After completing the sign-in process, you can delete the payment information. When you come into Zion, you can scan the CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE QR validation code which will make parking free. The QR validation code will be posted in the entrance way or just inside the entrance to fellowship hall. You will need to scan the QR validation code every Sunday.***

***OPTION 2: DOES NOT REQUIRE SMART PHONE. A representative from Zion, from a smart phone or laptop, will enter your license plate into a designated link to validate your parking.***

**Validated parking is also available for the Lower Amtrak Lot – only on Sundays.**  
***Scan the QR Code in the lot and follow the prompts to enter your information. You will be asked to enter a credit card number or other payment information when you initially sign-in. After completing the sign-in process, you can delete the payment information. When you come into Zion, you can scan the LOWER AMTRAK LOT QR validation code which will make the parking free. The QR validation code will be posted in the entrance way or just inside the entrance to fellowship hall.***

### **Weekly Schedule & Zoom/YouTube Information**

**The Meeting ID and Passcode to attend our weekly online worship services on Zoom is listed are available on the church website. We also broadcast worship on our YouTube channel using YouTube Live.**