



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
The Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.



ZION

Ministries
Under the Cross
Deerfield Beach, Florida



Welcome to Zion!

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

We long for a light to guide us.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.

We long for God's joy in our lives.

For the yoke of their burden, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

We long to be relieved of all that we carry.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He is named Emmanuel: God with us.

**In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,
we find our comfort, our light, and our joy.**

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #283, Verses 1-3

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray together...**Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

“His Name is Wonderful”

Shayne Clancy, solo

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hymn #270, Verses 1 & 3

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

GOSPEL READING WITH HYMNS

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Hymn: “Away in a Manger”

Hymn #277, Verses 1 & 3

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn #289, Verse 1

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this,

they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Hymn: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Hymn #290, Refrain & Verse 1

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Joy Has Dawned”

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
God’s salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory.
But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother’s breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today, Incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, His death will make a way, and by His blood He’ll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heav’n, given as a ransom,
Reconciling God with us, Christ our mighty Champion.
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Hymn #279, Verses 1 & 4
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega. You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a curtain, filling the earth with goodness.

As a mother gathers her children, so you gather your people to teach us compassion and love. You sent your son to dwell among us by the message of an angel, to be born of the Virgin Mary. In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a helpless babe, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath – human, as we are, in need of human love.

Kings bowed down before him bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. This Word of God was made flesh and dwelt among us, and his flesh and blood were given to us, in his final gift of grace.

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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

Come, for all is now ready: the gifts of God for the people of God.
Welcome to the Lord's table!

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

Shayne Clancy, solo

“What Child is This”

Hymn #296

“The First Noel”

Hymn #300

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

We Receive the Light & Are Sent into the World

CANDLELIGHTING

“O Holy Night”

As the song is sung, you are invited to light your candles at the invitation of the worship leaders. For safety's sake, tip only the candle to be lighted.

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel, according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN

Hymn #281

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

At the conclusion of the hymn, please extinguish your candles.

BLESSING

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, **and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God.**

Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night in our hearts, our minds, our lives. **May your light be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this night and forever more. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hymn #267, Verses 1, 2, and 4

“Joy to the World”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go and tell the good news that Christ is born anew this night!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Those Leading Worship

Kurt R. Schmidt, Minister

Peter J. Rizzo, Cantor

Dr. Robin Larson

Shayne Clancy

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Christmas Poinsettias



In loving memory of Tim Swanson
by the Swanson Family

In loving memory of my princess, Krystle Rose, and my baby boy, Billy
by Debbie Anderson

In loving memory of Maximilian & Erna Kuhn
by Silda Ellison

In loving memory of Lois A. Stuber
by Gail & Kurt Schmidt

Two new pre-lit Christmas trees at the front of the sanctuary are given
in loving memory of Rick Schmidt, Gladys Schmidt, Freya Auger, and
Robert V. & Patricia C. Courant
by Gail & Kurt Schmidt





GROWING

in God's Grace

***As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and
established in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.***

Colossians 2:6-7



ZION

Ministries Under the Cross

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