



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Sunday, December 18, 2022

Ministers: All the Faithful Members

Preacher: Rev. Joel Risser

1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046

717-865-3286

www.ziongosherts.org

*Please stand if you are able. Congregation, please speak the words in **bold**.

PRELUDE

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus, God sent you in mercy to be to be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

People: Teach us the compassion of God.

L: Jesus, your life took flesh in the mercy of Mary's womb.

P: We rejoice in the compassion of Mary.

L: Jesus, your family took shape in the mercy of Joseph's welcome.

P: We give thanks for the compassion of Joseph.

L: Jesus, your holy family knew the struggle of the poor, when they were refused the mercy of shelter in Bethlehem.

P: Teach us the compassion of God; Lead us in the ways of justice and mercy.

*OPENING HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hymnal #317

INVOCATION

O Loving God, We await the birth of your Child, Jesus, whom you send into the world to show us the way of compassion. Let us follow Jesus with courage and joy across all the boundaries of our human difference. Open our hearts and our communities, that they may be places where your goodness is recognized, and your generosity is shown to all our sisters and brothers. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, your beloved Child and our brother.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray:

Have mercy on us, O God according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions.

Let us take a few moments of silence to think about our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.

We will continue in silence

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We come to you confessing what is on our hearts and minds. We do so trusting that you want to hear our petitions and that you have already forgiven what needs to be forgiven. We believe that our prayers will be answered in your time and in your almighty wisdom. Amen.

SCRIPTURE : Matthew 1: 18-25

SERMON: God With Us

OFFERING - GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

Let us give praise and thanks to God for the miracles and blessings in our lives by offering to God gifts of our time, talents and treasure.

OFFERING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal #319

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow

Tune: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

The musical score is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four lines of music, each with a measure number (1, 5, 10, 15) at the beginning. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 Em G C D7 G D G C G
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em
here — be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray

We offer to you, O God, these gifts of our lives and service. Keep us close Lord, to all who need your love, justice, compassion, and healing; help us to show them that you are known in Jesus Christ, whose compassion lives in all of us.

PRAYERS of the people and pastoral prayer

Leader: Let us pray. **People: Have mercy, O God.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come; Your 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

The First Noel the Angel Did Say

Hymnal #315

BENEDICTION

Let us go forth striving to be compassionate as our Creator is compassionate, awaiting with joy the birth of Jesus, in whose Way of love, justice and mercy we will walk with our sisters and brothers.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE

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