



# Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship  
Sunday, December 6, 2020

Pastor: Bruce Farrell  
Ministers: All the Faithful Members

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

Tara Zimmerman

## WELCOME

The ringing of the bell

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

[today's texts]

Pastor: Greetings, the Lord is with you. Come and worship Jesus, for Whose advent we prepare.

**People: He is great, the Son of the Most High.**

Pastor: He will reign forever; His Kingdom will never end.

**People: He is the Holy One, the Son of You, God, not one of Whose words will ever fail.**

Pastor: You have given us the hope of eternal life with You, not due to our good deeds, but because, You, in Your kindness, love, mercy and grace, sent Jesus to save us through the washing of the Holy Spirit.

**All: In the midst of fear and trouble, we, Your servants, Your children, give praise and adoration to You, for Whom nothing is impossible.**

## \*HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**<sup>1</sup> 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.**

**<sup>2</sup> 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.**

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Peace

Last Sunday, on the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of hope and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises of a peaceful kingdom. *[Light first candle.]*

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace. God, we wait for Your promise of peace on earth and good will to all who are called according to Your purposes. We pray that Your peace would break through our restless hearts and lead us to Bethlehem, where we can celebrate the Savior's birth. We light this candle of peace. *[Light second candle.]*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: A Surprise Message

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38; Titus 3:3-7

## CONFESSION

We have at times been foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. We tend to think our good deeds will save us. But You have given us Yourself in our Lord, Jesus the Christ. His coming is cause for praise, yet we have tuned our hearts to the melody of the world and not to the songs of heaven. We are often troubled and afraid. Even when Your love and kindness call us, we are reluctant to give You our wholehearted consent and trust. Our attention is drawn away to the cares of our lives. We do not act in the confidence that nothing is too hard for You, the Creator of the universe. Gracious God, fill our hearts with Your music, with Your Holy Spirit. Turn our hearts toward You.

## Assurance of Pardon

[Titus 3:4a, 5b-6]

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us... through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us generously.

SONG

*Emmanuel*

[Sing twice]

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel; His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us, revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel**  
*[Second time, substitute "Your" for "His".]*

SERMON: Gabriel's Annoucement

ANTHEM

*Mary, Did You Know*  
Roberto Marti

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Luke 1:16-17]

[John the Baptist] will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

PRAYERS for the people and pastoral prayer

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

*Lift up your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

- <sup>1</sup> Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here.**
- <sup>2</sup> Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**
- <sup>3</sup> Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to You: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Your inner presence feel: Your grace and love in me reveal.**
- <sup>4</sup> So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.**

BENEDICTION

Your plan of redemption was advanced when one young woman said yes to You – a yes that would change the world. No complicated ritual or advanced theological training was involved. Just the trusting words, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as You have said." Lord, may it be the same in our lives. Help us to say yes to You, Holy Spirit. Come upon us so that the life of Christ may be manifested through us to the needy world around us.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

**"You are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; His kingdom will never end... No word from God will ever fail."**

*From Luke 1:31b-33, 37*

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Confession adapted from today's texts and: Rev. Matt Olson and Rachael Short <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/september-2020/advent-concert-prayer>

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