

Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022 10:15 a.m.

(* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Children of God, lay down your defenses and find peace in the community of faith.

P: **Let the Church be a safe refuge where peace reigns over fear and violence.**

L: Children of God, examine your ways and prepare to yield to the gentle way of Christ.

P: **We let go of the harshness and pettiness keeping us from peace with God and neighbor.**

L: Children of God, come to worship and proclaim this peace to all the world.

P: **We gather in the spirit of Christ himself. Let us worship in peace together.**

*HYMNS *Let There Be Peace On Earth
How Can I Keep from Singing?*

*ADVENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peaceful presence, thank you for the peace we find in fellowship with one another. Your Spirit calms our hearts, soothes our minds, and settles our bodies. We bring our stress, unease, and agitation and lay them down before you. You are familiar with the mental anguish we face because you lived among us and felt our pain. We cast all our anxiety upon you, knowing you care for us. And in the place of anxiety, we receive the healing and wholeness you intend for us each day as we worship you together. Amen.

ANTHEM *A Great Light*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER

God of peaceful presence, the earth is not always a peaceful place. Nations struggle against each other, weapons of war are used upon the innocent, and bullies gain power through force and cruelty. Grant wisdom to our leaders to seek peace instead of war and community resources instead of weapons. Embolden the powerful and privileged to resist bullies and to choose the side of the weak and the poor. Instead of an army of fighters, make us into a band of peacemakers, rejecting all forms of violence wherever we go. Renew our minds to pursue peace, even at great cost, for this is the way of Jesus. Amen.

GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Isaiah 2:1-5

MESSAGE *Lessons From Advent*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Family of Guiliana Koehler, Tom & Barb, Aubrey Goff, Ayden Arnold, Terry, Family of Amy Rogel, Family of Daryl Stuhr, Shirley Lopeman, Rusty Thies, Mike Schoening, Family of Don Redeen, Neil Tipton, Florida hurricane victims, Jim L., Keisha Smith, Mary Fiedler, Tom Kelly, Bob & Holly Antkowiak, Eleanor Johnson & family, Carol Dean, Charlene, George, Dan, Family of Jim Catalanello, Darrell, Joe Smith, Marilyn Haslam, Bill Vlastnik, Kathy Radtke, Ron Narczewski, Alice Guenther, Marian Benedict, Dixie Tonozzi, Paul Lewis, Terri Short, Jean Spayer, Joe Rogel, Ron Hudkins, Mrs. Lucas.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *O Thou Joyful*

OFFERING
OFFERTORY

PRAISE RESPONSE *We Praise You, O God*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION **God of peace, we bring our gifts to you. Take these tokens of our abundance and bless the hands that gave them. Guide our leaders to use these gifts with wisdom and care. And show us all how we might meet the many needs in our community with generosity. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

...With faithful people in every time and place we say,
"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.
Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament You assure us of Your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you forever. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.**

*HYMN *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

- Pastor Kay's brother-in-law, Tom will be having quadruple bypass surgery on Dec. 6. Please keep him and Pastor Kay's sister, Barb, in your prayers.
- Family of Guiliana Koehler
- Aubrey Goff, for health
- Ayden Arnold, for health

A Memorial was given in memory of Don Redeen, from Rose Mary Redeen.

CREW (Creative Rejoicing in Early Worship) meets at 9:00am Sunday mornings for learning and fun. All kids Kindergarten thru 5th grade are welcome. We hope to see you!

The Zion Children's Christmas Program "The Night Before Christmas" will be on December 18th during morning worship. You don't want to miss this!

The Board of Christian Education needs volunteers for Sunday School. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to serve, please contact the church office.

The Illinois Valley Flute Ensemble Recital: Festival of Flutes will be next today at 2:00pm here at Zion. The event is free and open to the public. Holiday music will be featured. We hope to see you!

The Women's Guild will meet this Thursday, December 8th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Zion Diners Christmas Party** will take place on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00pm at Liberty Restaurant and will feature the **famous White Elephant gift exchange**. Dixie Tonozzi & Jyll Janz will be hosting. Please let them know if you are planning to attend.

We are now taking orders for **Luminaries and Poinsettias**. The deadline is December 18th. The orders can be in memory or honor of someone, or they can just be donated. Please fill out the order form and send them to the church. Contact the church office with any questions. Thank you!

Please join us Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held in-person and available online (You Tube) at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, December 25th *please note: we will not be having service on Christmas Day. Services on Christmas Day are available at St. John's in Peru at 9:30am. 2000 Luther Dr., Peru (Shooting Park Rd.)

Pastor Alex will be on vacation December 26 -January 2. Rev. Kay Harding will preach on Jan.1 and will be available for emergencies. Her phone number is (815)993-9220.

2023 Offering envelopes will be available in the narthex. Please continue to use your 2022 envelopes, sending your donations, or giving online as you have been doing. Any donations given until December 31, 2022 will be credited to 2022 giving statements. After January 1, 2023 donations will be credited to 2023 giving statements. If you have not been able to pick up your 2023 envelopes, use any envelope and put your name and date on it when you donate your contribution. Your envelope number will be the same as you have this year. If you have leftover 2022 envelopes, you can use one of those and write the 2023 date on it. If you are giving for more than one week, you do not have to use a separate envelope (or a separate check) for each week. You can mark the envelope for the weeks that are covered in it. Zion Church again thanks you for your continued support during these hard times. Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion. Should you have any questions about envelopes or your giving statement please contact Jim Greening at (815) 223-1858.

Choir practice is Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We need new members! If you like to sing and have fun please contact the church office or Jim Greening (815/223-1858) with questions, or come to practice.

Pastor Alex is on the radio! At 8:25 every Sunday morning he will be on the air on WLPO 103.9 FM to share a five minute talk. We're getting good feedback from WLPO listeners in the community. Pastor has often said that Zion is the best kept secret in the Illinois Valley. Let's change that! Listen in when you can and let your friends know.

HELP THE HOMELESS At Peru **PADS** shelter, the need is great in these difficult times. The number of people residing at the shelter is at an all-time high, with many being children. Zion UCC congregation is once again supplying one meal a month on the fourth Tuesday. We have a delicious dinner prepared and delivered to PADS each month through May. Can you help with a donation to help cover the costs? If you would like to help, you can place a check in the offering. Be sure to note on the check that it's for PADS. Or you can give online by going to the online giving site and use the drop down menu to click on "Give to PADS meals". Thank you for helping feed people in need in the Illinois Valley.

You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

A local **Grief Support Group** for adults meets each 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at St. Margaret's Health, 1305 6th St. Peru. The meetings are at 6:00pm. Please call 815/780-4618 or email joan.fernandez@ivch.org for more information.

Copies of the hymns are available in the Narthex.

Copies of "These Days" Daily devotions are available in fellowship hall.

Zion United Church of Christ 6 th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org	
Ministers Pastor	Members of the Congregation Pastor Alex Garncarz
Video/Graphics Projection Live Streaming/Video Recording	Rhonda Essl Jerry Koehler
Organist Secretary Liturgist Fellowship	Jim Greening Erin Lewis Shelly Garncarz Pastor Alex & Shelly Garncarz

This week:

Tuesday, December 6th

9:00am-4:00pm Cookie Drop off

Wednesday, December 7th

8:00am-9:00am Cookie Drop off

9:00am-Volunteers wrap cookies

6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, December 8th

9:00am-Volunteers assemble orders

1:00pm Women's Guild meeting

Friday, December 9th

2:30pm-Meet at church to distribute orders

3:00pm-6:00pm Cookie Sale Pick-up

Sunday, December 11th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir Practice

10:15am Worship in person or on YouTube

Followed by fellowship refreshments

Office Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00am-4:00pm (Auto-door will be "on")

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 9:00am-2:00pm

