

Second Sunday In Advent

December 7, 2025

10:15 a.m.

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

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: We gather together in this place:

P: **prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**

L: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

P: **We who dare to dream God's dream.**

L: We watch with Malachi and John.

P: **God's peace will soon appear!**

L: The hills and valleys will meet,

P: **and all things will be at rest.**

L: We long for a world restored, renewed.

P: **The fire of God's justice burns in our hearts.**

L: Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

P: **We have come to wonder and praise.**

*HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*ADVENT PRAYER **God of promises, your vision for peace stretches our imaginations, pushing us beyond platitudes and stirring up the fire of justice in our hearts. Show us our place and our purpose in leveling mountains and raising valleys, in straightening roads and clearing pathways. We pray as people of anticipation, who long for peace with anxious energy as we await the arrival of Christ among us. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Alleluia for Advent*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER **God of whispers and shouts, you proclaim the good news of peace from all corners of creation. As we turn to our scriptures, may the words inspire us to dream of a world where peace thrives among us. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 11:1-10*

MESSAGE *When Will There Be Peace?*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Karen Hauser, Holly and family of Bob Antkowiak, Lois Wilmot, Tina Garncarz, Dave Wagner Family, Steve Theisinger, Shelly, Mary Thies, Kittilson Family, Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Kevin Kramer, Dixie, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *O Thou Joyful*

OFFERING

RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard On High*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the kingdom of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. Amen.**

CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION **God of peace, we confess the ways that we maintain "peacefulness" at the expense of seeking justice for our neighbors and our world. We turn our eyes away from human suffering to maintain false contentment in our own hearts. We settle for**

compromises that harm the vulnerable, rather than risk discomfort or loss. We ask to be soothed rather than stirred up. Make us a holy and risk-taking people. Forgive and inspire us. Shape us as bold witnesses to your coming reign. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

...we praise your name and join the unending hymn:
"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."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...and we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **Creator of all good things, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of blessing, small in their presentation, yet magnificent in our holy imagination. May the peace of the Lord's table accompany us on our journeys from here. Amen.**

*HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

-Karen Hauser, for health

*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Please join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today. *If you would like to provide refreshments December 14th, please let the office know.

The Illinois Valley Flute Ensemble Winter Concert will take place at Zion today at 2:00pm. The event is free and open to the public. A variety of holiday music will be featured. We hope to see you!

The Women's Guild will have a "Working Meeting" on Thursday, December 11th while packaging cookies in the morning.

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

Join the CREW! Our Sunday School program, **CREW**, is meeting again every Sunday at 9:00 AM. Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for stories, games, crafts, and activities that help build faith and friendships. We're excited to see you this Sunday! ***Zion Children's Christmas Program will be on December 21st during morning worship. You don't want to miss this!***

This Christmas, Zion UCC is collecting and providing gifts for a local family in need. There are four children, a girl age 6, a boy age 5, a boy age 3 and a girl who is a toddler. We invite you to help make their holiday bright! Several people have already purchased some of the items requested. To avoid duplicate purchases we have put the remaining items on post-it notes on a board. You can take the post-it for one or more items, purchase them and bring the items, unwrapped, to church. We will see that they get delivered. Let's share God's love through generosity and kindness this Christmas season! For questions or more details, see Pastor Alex.

COOKIE SALE NEWS FLASH Final instructions

The Cookie Sale is this week. Here are some important reminders.

- **Today after worship** we will be arranging the tables and chairs in the fellowship hall. Many hands make quick work so if you can stay to help. It would be appreciated.

- **Thursday** we will be packaging and pricing all the goodies beginning at 9:00am. **Please have your baked goods and candies here by then.** You can bring them that morning or Wed. afternoon and evening till 7:30pm. The church will be open by 7:00am on Thursday if you need to drop items off on

your way to work. **Please be sure to label your items and indicate if any contain nuts. Examples: Chocolate chip cookies - no nuts. Banana muffins – contains walnuts. You get the idea.**

- **Friday** Those helping with the sale should arrive at 2:30pm for last minute instructions and set-up. If you are coming after work to help with clean-up plan on arriving about 5:30pm.

Thank you all. We're looking forward to a great sale!

Mark your calendars for the **Zion Diners Christmas Party!** The event will take place on Thursday, December 18th at 6:00pm at Liberty Restaurant and will feature the **famous White Elephant gift exchange**. Dixie Tonozzi will be hosting. Please let her know if you are planning to attend. All are welcome!

Join us for Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7:00 pm in-person or on YouTube.

Please Note: Pastor Alex will be on vacation beginning December 29 and will be back in the office January 5th. Rev. Kay Harding will preach on Jan 4th. and will be available for emergencies. Her phone number is: (815)993-9220

Tuesday Night Bible Study will take a break through the holidays. We'll resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Feeding the Future – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry launched a major fundraiser to fund their new building purchase, necessary renovations, and expanded food programs —so that we can continue to serve the growing number of individuals and families in need across our region. Local individuals, churches and businesses are joining together to make this vision a reality. Learn more or donate at www.ivfoodpantry.com or by contacting the Pantry directly.

Did you know? Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

Prayer Requests In the Bulletin We are grateful for the privilege of praying for one another. To help us keep our prayer list current, each new request will be included in the bulletin for four weeks. After that time, we will remove it unless we are asked to continue sharing it longer. If you would like a request to remain, please let us know—we want to walk alongside you in prayer for as long as you need.

Zion Spaghetti Express-Save the Date! On Wednesday, February 19, 2026 we'll be hosting a Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our church community. We'll need plenty of hands to make this event a success—help will be needed to prepare the food, serve meals, and clean up afterward. More details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

Zion UCC is providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note "**PADS Meals.**" Or go online and donate through the Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

HELP WANTED! Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email ushers@zionperu.org to be added to the ushers list. Evangelism: We are updating our visitor information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting. If you would like to help the Evangelism Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email evangelism@zionperu.org.

Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

The Compassionate Friends Group meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

Weight Watchers is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: *Bar soap *Shower gel *Shampoo Razors *Deodorant *Toothbrushes *Toothpaste *Combs or Brushes *Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

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).

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	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Erin Lewis
Liturgist	Shelly Garncarz
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Erin Lewis

Attendance: November 23: In Person: 46 + 8 children
On YouTube: 9 Closed Nov. 30th due to snow.

This week:

Monday, December 8th

6:30pm Live Life Group meeting

Wednesday, December 10th

4:00- 7:30pm Cookie Drop off

Thursday, December 11th

7:00am Cookie Drop off

9:00am Packaging/ pricing cookies

Friday, December 12th

2:30pm- Helpers meet at the church

3:00pm- **Cookie Sale**

Saturday, December 13th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, December 14th

Advent 3

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person, also available on YouTube

Followed by fellowship refreshments

*Office hours: Friday, Dec. 12- 1:00pm-2:30pm