

Second Sunday In Advent

December 8, 2024

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

One: As we begin this second week of Advent, focused on peace, may we remember what the angel said,

All: **"Be not afraid, Glory to God in the highest!"**

One: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Peace to this house."

All: **Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Blessed are the peacemakers."**

One: In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find this peace?

All: **Peace happens when we treat each other, ourselves, and the world kindly.**

One: Peace emerges when the work of justice is done, when all are free to be who God made us to be.

All: **Let us worship in a spirit of peace, proclaiming the coming of the Prince of Peace!**

*HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*ADVENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of starry skies, into your peaceful presence we bring our whole selves: anxieties, concerns, distractions, projects, dreams, and disorders. We know that in this unjust and chaotic world, peace is difficult to find and maintain, but we hunger for peace today. Reveal the ways we have blocked or prevented your peace within us and our communities. Expand our capacity for peace as we remember the manger, where peace first began to grow. May the peace of Christ sustain us in worship today. Amen.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER

God of the shepherds in the field, we too are afraid, longing for a peaceful world. We hear the cries of the oppressed ringing out, "No justice, no peace," and we join in this lament. We know you came to bring peace, and that peace prevails when lofty rulers are humbled and all are included and empowered. May we be instruments of your peace to those who hunger for it, relentless in our pursuit of justice. May we follow Jesus' example, proclaiming your peace wherever we go. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)*
Shelly Garncarz

GOD'S WORD FOR US

GOSPEL READING *Luke 3:1-20*

MESSAGE *Advice from Checkpoint John*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Ron Narczewski, Evie Coulter, Jim Brown, Karen Kradle, Austin, Maxine, Shirley, and Jackie, Katie Narduli, Brianna, Jim Greening, Shelly, Pam, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Dixie Tonozzi, Audrey Clements family, Zimmer Family, Tim P., Michelle, Eric & Tina, Jackson, Bill Vlastnik Family, Rusty & Mary Thies, Dale Jacobson, Jeff, Rod Petrowski Family, Family of Mag Maubach, Paul Nave, Jeff Rietgraf, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Kathy Radke Family, Ryan, Jyll Janz, Josie, Steve & Audrey, Carol Harris Family, Ben Vowels, Sr. Family, Dick & Alice Tostovarsnik, Priscilla Dean, Tom & Gretchen Kaszynski, Lindenmier family, Kevin & Anne Orval, The Smith Family, Art Ramey Family, Jean Spayer, Emily, Renewal Team, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD' S PRAYER (debts)
PRAYER RESPONSE *O Thou Joyful*

OFFERING
RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard On High*
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **God, as peacemakers we offer these gifts to be used in building bridges toward a world of peace. We pray for those who cannot bring peace because they are hungry, they are unhoused, they are lonely, or they are hurting. May our humble contributions multiply peace for a suffering world. Amen.**

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

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

Jim Brown, for health
Katie Narduli, for health
Austin, Maxine, Shirley, and Jackie, for health
Ron Narczewski,, for health
Jim Greening, for health
Brianna, for health
Shelly, 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.

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

**There will not be Choir practice this Wednesday. The Choir will sing next Sunday, December 15th.

Exciting Announcement: Join the CREW!

Hey Families! Get ready for an adventure because our Sunday School program, CREW, is back and better than ever! Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00AM for a fun-filled hour designed for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade.

At CREW, we dive into amazing stories, unleash our creativity with awesome crafts, and play exciting games that will keep everyone engaged and smiling! It's a great opportunity to make new friends, learn about faith, and have fun!

Don't miss out on the fun—come join the CREW this Sunday! We can't wait to see your smiling faces! See you there!

The Children's Christmas program will be held December 22nd during worship.

Advent Angel Tree- Our Mission during this Advent season is to help a local family in need by providing four children Christmas gifts and winter gear. To donate, please mark "Angel Tree" within your offering or contact Pastor Alex.

Listen to Pastor Alex at 8:25 every Sunday morning on 103.9 **WLPO**. Tell your friends!

Our new **Bible Study** series meets **Tuesdays at 6:30 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**. This is a **hybrid event**, so you're welcome to join us in person at the church or participate via Zoom from home. Our study is based on the popular TV series, *The Chosen*, which brings the stories of the Bible to life in a fresh, powerful way. We'll explore themes from each episode, dive deeper into Scripture, and share our insights together. This study is open to all adults, and we encourage you to invite a friend! Whether you're tuning in on Zoom or joining us in person, we look forward to growing together in faith.

COOKIE SALE NEWS FLASH #11

The Cookie Sale is this Friday. Here are some important reminders: - **Today after worship** we will be arranging the tables and chairs in the fellowship hall. Many hand 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 9:00. Please have your baked goods and candies here by then. You can bring them that morning or Wed. evening between 6 and 7:30. The church will be open by 7 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 2:30 for last minute instructions and set-up. If you are coming after work to help with clean-up plan on arriving about 5:30. 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 19th 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.

Each month, Zion UCC delivers a hot, nutritious meal to the **Peru PADS** homeless shelter, supporting those in need in our community. With the increased demand, the shelter reopened earlier this year, and your help is essential to continue this ministry through May. We invite you to make a difference by donating. Every contribution, big or small, helps us provide a hearty, healthy meal to those who need it most. To give, please write a check to the church with "PADS Meals" in the memo or donate online through the Giving page on our website. Thank you for opening your hearts to this mission of compassion!

Support Needed for Food Pantry Expansion!

The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is seeking donations as it searches for a new, larger facility to better serve those in need. A larger space will allow for the storage of additional perishable and non-perishable food items, ensuring that we can meet the increasing demand in our community.

Your financial support can make a real difference! Contributions can be sent to:

*Illinois Valley Food Pantry
122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301*

Together, we can work to end hunger in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope House Donations-Savanna Rietgraf is interning at a halfway house called Hope House that supports men transitioning from jail and prison. Many arrive with few belongings and need clothing as they work to rejoin the community. Savanna is asking for donations of gently used men's clothing - any sizes and styles, from casual to

professional. Bring items to the church office or contact Jim Greening. Your support can make a big difference.

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.

A retirement banquet for Pastor Dr. Ron McNeill will be held 1/12/2025 at noon in Bonucchi Hall at Granville UCC. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling (815) 878- 2652 or (815) 252-0741. Cards can be mailed to: Granville, UCC 103 N Church St., Granville, IL 61326

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).

Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

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	Terri Kelly
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Mary Thies & Phyllis Bender

Attendance: December 1 :

In Person: 37 + 10 children On You Tube: 10

This week:

Monday, December 9th

6:30pm Live Life Group meeting

Tuesday, December 10th

6:30pm Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11th

6:00- 7:30pm Cookie Drop off

Thursday, December 12th

7:00am Cookie Drop off

9:00am Packaging/ pricing cookies

Friday, December 13th

2:30pm- Helpers meet at the church

3:00pm- **Cookie Sale**

Saturday, December 14th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, December 15th

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-The secretary is in the office on Fridays

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 9:00am -1:00pm