



# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*A faith journey for all.*

Second Sunday of Christmas  
**Celebration of Holy Communion**  
January 3, 2021

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

**ONE:** Praise God, the Creator, who made the heavens and the earth!

**ALL:** We celebrate in awe of God's beautiful creation.

**ONE:** Praise God, the Redeemer, who came in flesh to live among us!

**ALL:** We gather in awe of God's coming to us.

**ONE:** Praise God, the Spirit, who fills us with hope!

**ALL:** We follow in awe, sustained for the journey.

**ONE:** Praise God, one in three, and three in one!

**ALL:** We worship in awe of God's merciful love.

### \* Opening Prayer

**ONE:** Triune God of love and light, dwell among us as we gather to worship you. Shine your light into our life. Fill our hearts with your overflowing love. Accept our offering of prayer and praise. May we truly see you in this place. Amen.

### \* Opening Hymn #330

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

### \* Prayer of Confession

**ALL:** Merciful God, through your Son, Jesus, we have become your children. Too often we reject this identity; we turn away from the parental guidance you offer and the unconditional love you have for us. Rather than trusting you, we follow our ideas and plans. Instead of caring for all of your children, we seek our advancement instead. Forgive us, O God. Help us to trust and to return to your loving arms. Amen.

### \* Words of Affirmation

**ONE:** The Word became flesh and lived among us, and from his fullness, we have received grace upon grace. Through Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven and freed.

**ALL: The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world. Through him, may we find peace**

*Silent prayer*

**\* Praise Response**

*Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Greeting our Neighbors**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Children's Time**

As the children return to their seats, the congregation sings the refrain of *Jesus Loves Me* in Samoan.

*O lou a-lo-fa! O lou a-lo-fa! O lou a-lo-fa! E si-li la-va-lea.*

**Scripture Readings (NRSV)**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 pew bible OT pg 898

John 1:10-18 pew bible NT pg 111

**Sermon**

Pastor Erik Graefe

## **OUR RESPONSE**

**\* Hymn of Response # 154**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**Announcements for the Life of the Church**

**The Community at Prayer**

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

*You are invited to share your joys and concerns with the congregation.*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord; And grant us Thy peace.

Amen

**The Offering**

Giving and Receiving Our Gifts

Offertory

\* Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

**ALL: Gracious God, you love abundantly and provide generously. In gratitude, we give our gifts back to you. May these offerings – our time, money, energy, and prayers – nurture and support your children, and represent to all what a joy it is to be counted among your family. Use us, and these gifts, to your glory. Amen.**

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

*The Lord's Table is open to all people including children at the discretion of their parents or guardians. The elements will be served to you in the pew by members of the Consistory.*

**Invitation and Communion Prayer**

ONE: Love has come!

**ALL: Love is here!**

ONE: Love is!

**ALL: Love!**

ONE: We celebrate the birth of hope: A hope that ignites us to action, to re-create, re-imagine and reshape ourselves and our world to the image of God's Kin-dom.

**ALL: We celebrate the birth of peace: A peace that engages brokenness; a peace that eclipses war; a peace that breaks down the walls of oppression and hate.**

ONE: We celebrate the birth of joy: A joy that reinvigorates our desire to rejoice in God, who creates all things: a joy that encourages us to lift up the positive and bridges the separation of the world.

**ALL: We celebrate the birth of love: A love that transcends all things; a love that looks at a person's skin color, creed, nationality, gender and sees the beauty, uniqueness and diversity of God's creation; a love that empowers us to embrace the other, the least of these, and the oppressed.**

ONE: We celebrate the birth of Christ, Immanuel, God with us. We remember his living, dying, and rising for the forgiveness of sin. We give thanks for the gift of his life and the power of his resurrection.

**Sharing the Meal**

*Trays hold white grape juice and red wine. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served.*

**Sharing of the Bread**

One: O God of time eternal, as we face the transition from one year to another, we come to this table in an attitude of confession. We have strayed from our resolutions and promises. The good that we had intended was not all done; in fact, we may have done some evil. With good intention, we nevertheless have let ourselves stray. We, like the Israelites, are exiled from our hopes and distanced from our goals. Yet it is at this table that our hope in God comes full circle and we can ask forgiveness. The bread of forgiveness is for all God's people. In the sharing of this bread, we celebrate the Christ who was born, lived, died, and lives eternally. Help us, Holy Spirit, so that in the breaking and eating of this bread, we will have new vision for our lives in this New Year. Amen.

### **Sharing of the Cup**

One: God of grace, whose incomprehensible love for us is revealed at this table, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. In your great wisdom, you sent us your own Son so that we may know you. Through his life, teachings, death, and resurrection, you showed us the way of life itself.

This cup shows your commitment to give light to us who walk in darkness. The light is our Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. In the drinking of this cup, we can walk in the light.

Holy Spirit, help us become a light to those whose paths are in darkness; help us, as you did John the Baptist, point to the Christ. Amen.

### **Prayer after Communion**

**ALL: We give thanks that through the power of the Holy Spirit these elements of bread and fruit of the vine may be for us the body and blood of Jesus broken for the forgiveness of our individual and collective sin.**

**May we be fed both spiritually and physically for the journey ahead as we go out into the world to share the good news of God's great love. Amen!**

## **SENDING**

**\* Closing Hymn # 156**

*Brightest and Best*

**\* Blessing**

**\* Postlude**

*\*Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit.*

Liturgy resources for today's service are from *Seasons of the Spirit* SeasonsFUSION Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2020-2021, Fed by God's Grace Communion Prayers for Year A

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-719713.

### **Zion United Church of Christ**

We welcome all people on a lifelong journey of faith with a still-speaking God.

We are many minds in spiritual beliefs,  
but one body in loving service to our community.

Minister: Pastor Erik Graefe

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Jill Schmutz

Organists: Janette Vogelsang and Judy Heintz

Choir Director: Sina Osa

### **Resources for Living our Faith**

*Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Christmas*

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

*Ecumenical Prayer Calendar*

The peoples of Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jordan & Lebanon

*Prayer for the week*

Energizing God, you know there are times when we are tired and uncertain, when we doubt that we can do your work in this world. As we approach a new year, help us recognize and embrace your love for us, so we have what we need to re-engage the world you love so much. Amen.

### **Announcements**

#### **Zion at Work in the World: January Giving Opportunities**

Zion participates in several mission opportunities throughout each month. Here are the ways you can make a difference during the upcoming weeks.

- Jan 3 –Food Pantry Collection
- Jan 10 -Heifer International Collection

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be either 24 or the 31. There will be additional information coming out about the Annual meeting after the January consistory meeting.

### Calendar of Events

Sunday, Jan 3	<i>Celebration of Holy Communion</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, Jan 10	<i>Heifer International Collection</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m.

### Serving Zion

#### Jan 3

#### Jan 10

<b>Greeters</b>		
<b>Ushers</b>	Nate & Steve Green	Rod Gfeller & Kevin Heiman
<b>Coffee Fellowship</b>	None	None

Jill's Office hours: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon, Wed, & Fri

Pastor Erik's office hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

If you need to speak with him please call or text 785-280-0852 or send an email

erikgraefe@mac.com

