

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

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A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

### WE RESPOND

#### \*Prayer of Response

“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.

We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.

Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.

Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.

We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel

##### Now Bless the God of Israel

Author: Ruth Duck, 1985

a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer

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FOREST GREEN C,M,D,

Traditional English melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906

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1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**



One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
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Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"



1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

### WE RESPOND

#### \*Prayer of Response

“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.

We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.

Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.

Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.

We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel

##### Now Bless the God of Israel

Author: Ruth Duck, 1985

a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer

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FOREST GREEN C,M,D,

Traditional English melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906

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1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,

**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,

**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,

**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)

- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”



**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.



At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)

- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

November 27th, 2022

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation



for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*





## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**



# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**



One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,

**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,

**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,

**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "ProceSSIONAL"



**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,

**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,

**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,

**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)

- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

November 27th, 2022

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.**

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.**

**3 Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.**

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”



**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.



At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)

- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation



for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*





## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



#### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**



# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**



One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"



1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

### WE RESPOND

#### \*Prayer of Response

“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.

We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.

Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.

Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.

We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel

##### Now Bless the God of Israel

Author: Ruth Duck, 1985

a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer

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FOREST GREEN C,M,D,

Traditional English melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906

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1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)

- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.**

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.**

**3 Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.**

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”



**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]**

**Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.**

**We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.**

**Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.**

**Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.**

**We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.**

#### **\*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel**

##### **Now Bless the God of Israel**

**Author: Ruth Duck, 1985**

**a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer**

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**FOREST GREEN C,M,D,**

**Traditional English melody**

**Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906**

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**1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,**

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.



At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)

- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**

# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation



for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.**

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.**

**3 Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.**

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

### WE RESPOND

#### \*Prayer of Response

“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.

We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.

Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.

Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.

We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel

##### Now Bless the God of Israel

Author: Ruth Duck, 1985

a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer

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FOREST GREEN C,M,D,

Traditional English melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906

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1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

### **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

#### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,  
**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,  
**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,  
**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
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Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*





## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children’s hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan’s ‘dire’ flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called “massive flooding” across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**



# **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT**

**November 27th, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**(First Sunday of a New Church Year)**

**A Service of the Word**



## ***Advent 1 Candle Drawing***

*Stushie Art. <https://stushieart.com/>*

*Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie. Unique crayon and digital worship  
A Scottish pastor, ministering in East Tennessee*



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

November 27th, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

(First Sunday of a New Church Year)

A Service of the Word

Sometimes when you least expect it, good things happen.

--Live Life Happy.com

## WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude – *Keith Konet*

#### \*Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**All: We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

One: Come, let us go up to the mountain  
that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**All: We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

One: We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**All: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

#### \*Gathering Prayer

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us,  
God of the hope that the present has brought us,  
We call on you in this hour of worship.  
We know that you need no invocation

for you are already and always with us—  
Emmanuel, even before the child was born.  
We open our hearts to receive your gifts,  
For you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace,  
The Giver of joy, the Giver love.  
Make your presence known  
as we make ourselves available to you.  
Amen.

\* Hymn – NCH 122 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus vv. 1, 2, & 3

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

Author: Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Word adaptations © 1981 Ruth C. Duck

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Composer (attributed to): Christian F. Witt, 1600-1716

Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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**1** Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
born to set all people free!  
from our fears and sins release us;  
grant us your true liberty.

**2** Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope to all the earth impart;  
dear desire of every nation,  
enter every longing heart.

**3** Born all people to deliver,  
born a child, you came to reign!  
Born to rule on earth forever,  
Come, be known to us again.

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*This reading contains a vision shared with Micah 2:1-4. Both prophets witnessed terrible violence and the destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel, but they had hope that the southern kingdom of Judah might learn and change their ways. The two prophets shared a hope that the people would turn back to God and gather in Jerusalem at the temple, a hope the people would turn away from violence and war and instead turn to God, and other nations would follow suit, with lessons learned going forth from Jerusalem: peace in God's name.*

**2** 1 This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple

will be established as the most important mountain  
and raised above all other hills—  
all nations will stream toward it.

3 Many people will come and say:  
“Come, let us climb YHWH’s mountain  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,  
that we may be instructed in God’s ways  
and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction† will be given from Zion  
and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

4 God will judge between the nations  
and render decisions for many countries.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
one nation will not raise the sword against another,  
and never again will they train for war.

5 O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of YHWH!

#### **Psalm Response: Psalm 122 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 122 is a prayer for Jerusalem, the holy city, calling the people into worship and into God’s ways of peace. Both the temple for God and the throne of David were established in Jerusalem, and the psalmist calls the people into worship, into a litany of praying for peace for the city and its people. For the sake of God, the psalmist prays that those who gather in worship seek the goodness and well-being of the city.*

**122** 1 How I rejoiced when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of God!”

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem restored!  
The city, one united whole!

**4 Here the tribes ascend,  
the tribes of God.  
They come to praise God’s Name,  
as God commanded Israel—**

5 Here, where the tribunals of justice are,  
the judgment seats of David’s house.

**6 Pray for peace within Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you prosper!**

7 May peace be in your walls!  
May your citadels be always secure!”

**8** For the sake of my family and friends,  
I say, “Peace be within you!”  
9 For the sake of the Sovereign our God,  
I will seek your good.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*For Advent, the Epistle readings follow Romans (except for the third Sunday when the reading is from James). In this passage, Paul writes near the end of his letter that this is the time to wake up. This is the time to pay attention to how we live and act in this world. Paul is hoping that Christ’s return is eminent, but even if it is not, this is always the time to live into the light, to live as if everything about us is exposed, and we have nothing to hide. Instead of acting in the way of this world and trying to mask who we are, Paul calls the believers to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to let Christ be the face the world sees.*

**13** 11 Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. 12 The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus calls the disciples to keep awake in part of his final discourse in Matthew 24. Jesus shares the story of Noah as a warning, that people didn’t heed the signs of the flood and simply focused on living their own lives. For those who do not pay attention to what is going on and focus on only themselves, they can neither perceive where God is at work nor how evil is at work in the world around us. Jesus then tells of the coming of the Promised One, where some are taken and some left—not a “rapture” as mythologized among some, but rather a metaphor to be ready, for Christ is at work in our world and lives and will be in a new, unexpected way. Like an owner of a house who would be prepared for anything if they were expecting a thief, so we must, as faithful followers of Jesus, be ready for Christ.*

**24** 36 “No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. 37 “The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. 38 In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. 39 They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. 40 Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming. 43 “Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. 44 You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing**

O God our God, we praise you for your Child, Jesus Christ.  
who is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
who is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
who is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.  
Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;  
may the light that shines forth from it  
illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.  
We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  
Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022,  
Up to Restoration (Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122)**

**Reader One:** "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" (*Psalm 122:1*).

**Reader Two:** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kin-dom to come.

**Reader One:** "Many people will come and say: 'Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths.'" Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3)

**Reader Two:** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored—our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

***Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.***

**\*Advent Hymn – 116 NCH - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv. 1 & 2 with refrain**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

Translator (st. 2): Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710;

based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers; Other translators also, alt.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

Arranger: Thomas Helmore, 1854

15th century French "Proclamation"

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

Reflection - We Begin to Invite God In – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

### WE RESPOND

#### \*Prayer of Response

“Stay here, and keep watch with me.” O Lord, You asked your disciples long ago to remain awake and they could not.

We know that we have been caught in the ways of this world and not simply in worldly measures of success, but the desire to make a better future for our children, to make things easier for our loved ones.

Sometimes we sacrifice our ideals for a better world for others to focus on the here and now. Sometimes that is all we can do for the time being.

Help us, O God, to wake up, and recognize where you are calling us in this world.  
Help us to wake up and be alert when the world drags us down. Help us not to daydream for a better world but to build it, to live into it, for the sake of the most vulnerable among us.

We pray all things in Christ, who calls us to wake up. Amen.

#### \*Hymn of Response – NCH 110 – Now Bless the God of Israel

##### Now Bless the God of Israel

Author: Ruth Duck, 1985

a paraphrase of the “Benedictus,” which is often sung at morning prayer

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FOREST GREEN C,M,D,

Traditional English melody

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, The English Hymnal, 1906

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1 Now bless the God of Israel  
who comes in love and power,

who raises from the royal house  
deliverance in this hour.  
Through holy prophets God has sworn  
to free us from alarm,  
to save us from the heavy hand  
of all who wish us harm.

2 Remembering the covenant,  
God rescues us from fear,  
that we might serve in holiness  
and peace from year to year.  
And you, my child, shall go before,  
to preach, to prophesy,  
that all may know the tender love,  
the grace of God most high.

3 In tender mercy, God will send  
the dayspring from on high,  
our rising sun, the light of life  
for those who sit and sigh.  
God comes to guide our way to peace,  
that death shall reign no more.  
Sing praises to the Holy One!  
O worship and adore!

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

### **The Offertory – *Keith Konet***

#### **\*Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

#### **\*Blessing of the Gifts**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

**All: We dedicate these gifts.**



One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** – using “debts” and “debtors”

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy 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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 133 – O Little Town of Bethlehem vss. 1, 2 & 3**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Author: Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

Composer: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

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**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in your dark streets shines forth  
the everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing, and voices ring  
with peace to all on earth.**

3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: We may not know when, but we will go,

**Many: to bring God's grace to our broken world.**

One: We may not know who, yet we will go,

**Many: to receive Jesus' hope from those  
we are uncomfortable being around.**

One: We may not know how, so we will go,

**Many: to share the Spirit's peace  
in the most unusual places.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. Advent 1A -November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Advent Wreath Prayer and Blessing is adapted from *Advent wreath blessing*, posted on Nov. 16, 2008, by Bosco Peterson on the blog, *Liturgy service and gratitude*. <http://liturgy.co.nz/advent-wreath-blessing/174>. Reposted Nov. 7, 2011 on the blog, re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/>.
- (3) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 - First Sunday of Advent, Year A: November 27, 2022 - UP TO RESTORATION, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- (4) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for November 27th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on November 16th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (5) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for November 27th, 2022, Advent 1-A* written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted November 20th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*



## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Zion's Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are

Monday – 9am – 1pm  
Wednesday – 10am-2pm  
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

**Our new website address is: [zionchurchtremont.org](http://zionchurchtremont.org).  
Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.*

*Think of it—always."*

*— Mahatma Gandhi*



## Season of Advent and Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but it is an active watching and waiting for the arrival of Christ in our world and in our lives in a new way. We read these passages pointing to the day of judgment and Christ's return to remind us that we are still actively waiting, alert and awake. Because of the Nativity story, that Christ came to us in a completely unexpected way as a newborn child, so in these days we must be ready for Christ to enter our world, our lives, and our hearts in an unexpected way. How do we live faithfully in times when our faith might be tested? When the world isn't as we hoped it would be? Where can we find signs of God's faithfulness in our lives, in the world around us?

Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, we are sharing four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. The Candle-lighting liturgy for the Advent wreath ties into the worship theme, **"Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents."**

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "How I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of God!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "How I rejoiced" to "go to the house of God." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kin-dom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God’s presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we’ve lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent songs of ascent.

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **“Up to Restoration – An Advent Song of Ascents.”** Adapt them and make them your own!

### **Advent Sundays with Zion Church – An Advent Song of Ascents**

**Sunday, November 27, 11:00am** – First Sunday of Advent – Up to Restoration

**Sunday, December 4th, 11:00am** – Second Sunday of Advent – Stand as a Signal

**Sunday, December 11th, 11:00 am** – Third Sunday of Advent – God’s Highway

**Sunday, December 18th, 11:00am** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Give You a Sign

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30pm** - Christmas Eve worship – Our Christmas Affirmation



### **Feeding the Community**

### **Holiday Food Drive for Our Neighbors in Need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend**

We’re invited to participate in a Holiday Food Drive for neighbors in need in the Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend neighborhoods. The food drive is an annual campaign sponsored by Tremont West Development Corp involving residents, businesses, and churches in these neighborhoods. Nine local block clubs are also participating this year: Auburn-Lincoln Park, Central Tremont, Duck Island, Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark, Irishtown Bend, Metro North, South of Jefferson and North of Literary – as well as Tremont West staff.

This year’s food drive will support the fine work of these Hunger Ministries/Food Pantries: St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Hunger Action Network, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank.



### Here's How to Donate and the Guidelines for this Season's Holiday Food Drive:

- **Items Needed:** Canned goods, nonperishable boxed food items, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins)
- **Cash/Checks:** You may also donate by cash/check if you prefer. Checks must be made out to the food pantry or pantries of your choice – for verification purposes, checks must first be mailed to the Tremont West offices (Re: Food Drive, 2406 Professor, Cleveland, OH 44113) – who will deliver them to the respective food pantries.

• **Donate online:** [givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive](https://givebutter.com/HolidayFoodDrive) - How to give: Click donate, select an amount to give, choose your block club (Holmden-Buhrer-Rowley/Mentor-Castle-Clark), choose which food pantry you want your donation to be sent to, and watch the food drive unfold! Donations may be made by Credit Card, Paypal, or Venmo.

- Drop-off point for canned goods: Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor).
- Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Friday, December 16th.

A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 16th. (NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 1st and will reopen on Monday, January 2nd, 2022). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West office.

- Most important of all is the goal: lending a helping hand to neighbors – families and children - in need in Tremont/Duck Island/Irishtown Bend - and providing help to support the outstanding work of ten local food pantries-ministries – St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program, St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC food pantry, Scranton Road Bible Church, Immanuel Lutheran food pantry, Westside Catholic Center, St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry, Iglesia Nueva Vida food pantry, Mega Church Resource Center food pantry, and Greater Cleveland Food Bank, who get nutritious food to children and families all year long!

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:



- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water

You can also give practical donations such as:

- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Razors
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- New underwear, undershirts and socks, gloves and mittens are always needed!



### **Please Remember in Prayer**

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement
- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.

- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, western Cuba, eastern Canada-along with the people of Florida and the Carolinas profoundly impacted by the recent hurricanes. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 589 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of November 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.
- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
  - Patti Augustine (recovery from respiratory illness) and family
  - Robert O. Bucklew (Bob Bucklew's Dad) in Alliance, Ohio
  - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – recovering from recent surgery*)
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Barbara.
  - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
  - Keith Konet and his brother who suffered a broken humerus from an injury caused by a fallen branch.
  - Marcia Leslie (*friend of Zion – health concerns; move to new senior housing community*)
  - Elaine Lukacs (***has moved to: Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Oh 44136***)
  - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter and James' son.
  - Patricia Matheny (*prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*)



- Barbara Rossington (*move to senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb - ***Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a fracture to her femur. She is at home recovering.***
- Beverly Wurm—***great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has undergone tests and referred to Texas Children's hospital.***

## Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,  
P.O. Box 71957  
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

**Donate online with the link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32)

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA c/o Heartland Conference UCC, P.O. Box 1230  
Worthington, OH 43085.

**Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time**

## Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

**People can donate electronically at this page: <https://tinyurl.com/ya8msm3n> by selecting "International Emergency" as the option and entering "Pakistan response" as the specific appeal.**

**Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with "Pakistan Response Fund" noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.**

## **Hurricanes 2022 Emergency Appeal**

The United Church of Christ is issuing an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. To read more, visit visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/5n6kpt24>

While this year's hurricane season started slow, later developments have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, some people remain without power. Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges.

Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high.

Hurricane Ian raged, with widespread damage in Cuba, flooding and wind damage, storm surge and in-land flooding across Florida, and flooding threatening Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia.

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners.

Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

**Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. Donate online: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7bd3e2>**

**If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.**