

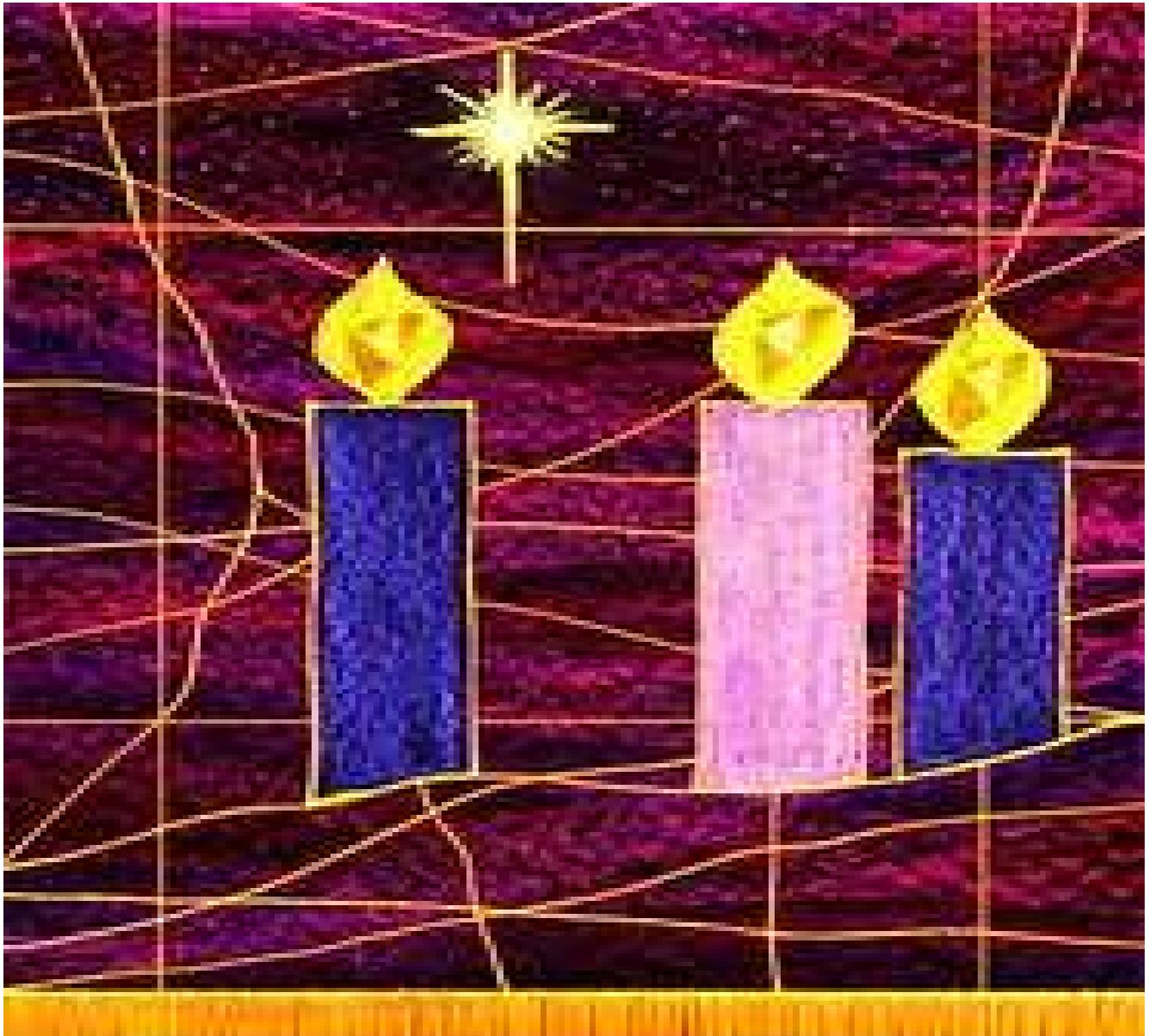
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

December 11th, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday/Rose Sunday/Sunday of Joy

A Service of the Word



Advent 3 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

December 11th, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday/Rose Sunday/Sunday of Joy

A Service of the Word

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

--Saint Augustine

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Keith Konet*

Introit: *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob." Philippians 4:4–6; Psalm 85 (84):1*

*Call to Worship

One: Our souls magnify the Lord.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: We come today with eager hope, awaiting God's new revelation.

One: The mighty One has done great things!

God's mercy covers generations.

All: We come today with ready peace, trusting with anticipation.

One: The One who lifted up those who are lowly

And filled those who are hungry, dwells with us.

All: We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.

*Gathering Prayer

God of Mary, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Rahab—
God of us all, your children here and your children afar—

We enter this moment of worship with eager anticipation.
We know that even before a child would come to lead the way,
You were leading our way.
From the valleys of the shadows of death
to the tables in the presence of enemies,
you have never left us nor forsaken us.
You rod and your staff have guided us.
Guide us now, O God.
Make your presence known
as we worship you in spirit and in truth.
Amen.

* Hymn – NCH 4 – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You vv. 1, 2, & 3

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Author: Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D.

Composer: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

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1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale, and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
teach us what our praise should be.

3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
by that love our joy renew.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The readings from the Hebrew Scriptures continue to follow the book of Isaiah in this Advent season. The prophet turns to hope of return from exile in these verses in chapter 35. Before the “voice cries out in the wilderness” in 40:3, the prophet notes the wilderness and desert rejoice and blossom because of the glory of God. The prophet encourages the people to have courage because God is coming to deliver them, to lead them out of exile to home. Isaiah uses images of people with physical disabilities, including those who are blind, deaf, mute, or paralyzed, to symbolize spiritual limitations. In the time of Isaiah, people with disabilities were often excluded from the greater community, unable or not allowed to participate. The prophet uses these images to show that the limitations have been removed from the people. As twenty-first century readers, we need to focus on the liberation from the limitations of societal participation, for that was the image Isaiah was invoking, not a miraculous curing. All will be called to God’s Holy Way. Those who are unclean—those who will not keep God’s ways—will fall away, but all others will follow God’s holy way into liberation.

35 1 Let the desert and the wilderness exult!

Let the Arabah rejoice and bloom like the crocus!

2 Let it blossom profusely,

let it rejoice and sing for joy!

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of YHWH,

the splendor of our God.

3 Strengthen all weary hands,

steady all trembling knees.

4 Say to all those of faint heart:

“Take courage! Do not be afraid!

Look, YHWH is coming, vindication is coming,

the recompense of God—

God is coming to save you!”

5 Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened,

the ears of those who are deaf will be unsealed.

6 Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer

and the tongues of those who cannot speak

will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness,

and there will be streams in the desert.

7 The scorched earth will become a lake;

the parched land, springs of water. The lairs where jackals used to dwell

will become thickets of reed and papyrus.

8 And through it will run a highway,

a road called the Sacred Path. Those who are unclean may not travel by it,

but it will be for God’s people alone;

and no traveler—not even fools—will go astray.

9 No lions will be there,

nor will any fierce beast roam about it,

but the redeemed will walk there—

10 for those whom YHWH has ransomed will return.

They will enter Zion shouting for joy,
with everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them,
and sorrow and lament will flee away.

Response: Luke 1:46-55 (Responsively)

An alternative to the psalm is Mary's Magnificat in these verses of Luke 1. Mary, echoing the Song of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2, responds to God working in her life and sings of God doing wonderful, mighty things for all the people. God's justice flips over the tables, fills those who are hungry and sends those who are rich away empty. God's justice brings down those who are powerful and lifts up those who are lowly. For those who are in places of privilege and have all the resources they need, this will not be good news, but for those who are oppressed and marginalized, God has come to help them. This is in accordance with the promises God made to their ancestors and to the people forever.

1 1 Mary said:

"My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,

47 and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.

48 For you have looked with favor

upon your lowly servant,

and from this day forward

all generations will call me blessed.

49 For you, the Almighty, have done great things for

me,

and holy is your Name.

50 Your mercy reaches from age to age

for those who revere you.

51 You have shown strength with your arm;

you have scattered those who are proud in their conceit;

52 you have deposed those who are mighty from their thrones

and raised those who are lowly to high places.

53 You have filled those who are hungry with good things,

while you have sent those who are rich away empty.

54 You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,

mindful of your mercy—

55 the promise you made to our ancestors—

to Sarah and Abraham

and their descendants forever."

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

The text in James 5 encourages the believers to be courageous and be patient, for the day of the Lord is near. James warns the believers not to grumble against one another, because God takes notice of everything. Earlier in the letter, James warned against judgment because God is the ultimate judge, and God is drawing near, so James repeats this warning. This reading concludes with James reminding the faithful of the endurance and suffering of the prophets before them.

5 7 Be patient, my sisters, and brothers, until the appearance of Christ.

See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil, looking forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and spring rains. 8 You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the coming of Christ is at hand.

9 Don't grumble against one another, my sisters, and brothers, or you will be judged.

The Judge is standing at the door! 10 To learn how to persevere patiently under hardship, sisters and brothers, take as your models the prophets who spoke in the name of the Most High.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptizer wonders if Jesus is the one to come, or if they were supposed to wait for another in these verses of Matthew 11. John, who was in prison at the time, sent word through his own disciples to Jesus questioning if he was the Messiah. Jesus's response to the messenger was simply to tell John what he witnessed: those who are disabled are included and have good news, those who are dead are raised, and those who are sick are healed. In Jesus's day, disabled people could not work, they could only beg. Good news was brought to those who had been left out, as they would not be left out of God's reign. Perhaps John and others were still expecting a Messiah who would bring about a worldly kingdom, wearing the robes of kings or perhaps the powerful voice of a prophet commanding leaders, but Jesus was at work among the poorest, most vulnerable people. John the Baptizer may have been the greatest prophet to be born, but the least in the kingdom of heaven would be greater than he—John could not envision a kingdom not of this world.

11 2 John was in prison, he heard about the works the Messiah was performing, and sent a message by way of his disciples 3 to ask Jesus, "Are you 'The One who is to come' or do we look for another?"

4 In reply, Jesus said to them, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

5 'Those who are blind recover their sight;
those who cannot walk are able to walk;
those with leprosy are cured;
those who are deaf hear;
the dead are raised to life;
and the anawim—the "have-nots"—
have the Good News preached to them.'

6 "Blessed is the one who finds no stumbling block in me."

7 As the messengers set off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wasteland to see—a reed swaying in the wind? 8 Tell me, what did you go out to see—someone luxuriously dressed? No, those who dress luxuriously are to be found in royal palaces. 9 So what did you go out to see—a prophet? Yes, a prophet—and more than a prophet! 10 It is about John that scripture says,

'I send my messenger ahead of you
to prepare your way before you.'

11 "The truth is, history has not known a person born of woman who is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least born into the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy Third Sunday of Advent, Year A: December 11th, 2022
God's Highway (*Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10*)

Reader One: "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; those who are unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the ransomed of God shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (*Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10*).

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

Reader One: The Psalmist says "Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise God!" (*Psalm 146*)

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

Light three candles on the Advent wreath, (2 blue, 1 pink)

Advent Hymn— NCH 116 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1, 5 & 6 with refrain

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Original Language: Latin

Translator: John Mason Neale

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

Psalterium Canticum 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

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**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!**

**5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide your heavenly home;
Make safe the way to endless day,**

to hell's destruction close the way. [Refrain]

6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

Reflection – Turning Despair Into Joy - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

*Prayer of Response

Joyful God, we rejoice in you this season! We are glad for the wonder and awe that Advent brings us as we prepare for Christmas.

As we are still in a pre-post-COVID world, we've experienced much loss and grief in recent years. While we've eased up on some restrictions, we still take precautions, and we may be a bit timid in truly embracing joy.

God, help us to know that while we may still be cautious, while we may still be careful for the well-being of others and ourselves, we can fully rejoice in you, knowing that you are making all things new.

We look to the future with hope, and we prepare our hearts to make room for you, for you are our Joy to the World! 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.

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 CAROL – NCH 129 – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice vss. 1, 2 & 3**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Latin and German, 14th century
Translator: John Mason Neale, 1855; alt.
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5.
Harmonizer: John Stainer, 1871, adapt.
Composer (descant): H. A. Chambers, 1931
German melody, 14th century

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**1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
asleep within the manger now.
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today!**

**2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you know of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven's door,
and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!**

**3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Let us journey into the world with our God,

All: to rebuild shattered hearts with hope.

One: Let us spend each day with Jesus,

All: mending brokenness with love.

One: Let us share our hearts with the Spirit,

All: so we may be with those who are waiting for peace. Amen.

***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: *3rd Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday - Strengthen Your Resolve*, written by The Rev Mia M. McClain Senior Pastor Riverside Baptist Church Washington D.C. Ordained UCC Minister. All publishing rights reserved. Permission for congregations to use in worship or educational settings, including streaming.
- 2) Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2022 Third Sunday of Advent, December 11th, 2022 –*The Lord's Highway*, by Derek Weber. Posted on the website of *Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church*. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022#>
- 3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for December 11th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on December 2nd, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- 4) The Commissioning and Benediction, is adapted/ from *alternate text liturgy w/communion for December 11th, 2022, Advent 3-A*, by Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted December 4th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionarylitrugies.blogspot.com>
- 5) Permission to stream to music in the 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 or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

Our new website address is: 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*



The Season of Advent

Advent is...the first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas.

The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming."

The season is a time of watchful preparation and expectation for the coming of Jesus in three ways: a celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, watchful expectation and preparation for Christ's coming into our lives and world today, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."

Gaudete Sunday (/gaʊˈdɛtə/ gow-DET-eh) is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of Western Christianity, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, Lutheran Churches, and other mainline Protestant churches such as the United Church of Christ. It can fall on any date from 11 December to 17 December. The term is derived from the Latin opening words of the introit antiphon (*a verse from a hymn, psalm, or anthem that is sung as the ministers enter to begin the eucharist – appropriate to the liturgical season or occasion*), “Rejoice (*Gaudete*) in the Lord always.” **The theme of the day expresses the joy of anticipation at the approach of the Christmas celebration and joyful anticipation of the Lord’s coming.** In the early tradition of Advent, the season was forty days, mirroring Lent, and a period of fasting. Gaudete Sunday was a day to break the fasting and celebrate, for Christmas is drawing near. This theme reflects a lightening of the tone of the traditional Advent observance – which in earlier centuries was penitential (*sorrowful, contrite, repentant*). It was appropriate for the clergy to wear rose-colored vestments on this day instead of the deeper violet vestments that were traditionally used in Advent. This Sunday was also known as **“Rose Sunday.”** This custom is not required in the United Church of Christ, but it is observed by some congregations including Zion Church. This custom is reflected by **the practice of including a pink or rose-colored candle** among the four candles of an **Advent wreath**.

Advent Wreath Candle-lighting

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, **“Stand as a Signal.”**

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 “stand as a signal.”’

Feel free to use these litanies in whatever ways you see fit this Advent — proclaiming all the while **Stand as A Signal**

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/**Gaudete**

Sunday/Rose Sunday/Sunday of Joy – 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

OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL – E.E. CUMMINGS AND THE JOYFUL POETRY OF ADVENT

The word “Advent” means “arrival” or “coming.” It’s a four-week season of waiting and preparing for Jesus to be born, watching and listening for God coming into the world even now. For God is love, and love, as E.E. Cummings put it, “is the voice under all silences.”

Poetry can help tune our ears and eyes so we can listen, and watch, and wait. Poems can push us to think new thoughts and feel new feelings, to hear new songs we might otherwise miss. In this Advent devotional, we let scripture and Cumming’s poetry be our guides, together pointing us toward weekly practices that can deepen and enrich our senses of the season – a perfect way to prepare for the re-joining of Christmas day.

Copies of the Advent Devotional along with a Supplementary Booklet of the Poems and Artwork of E.E. Cummings – and a set of four Advent candles – are available through Zion Church – a gift for you from Pastor Scott and Bob Bucklew.



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 (*operated by Catholic Charities*)
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry ministry (*operated by Parish Church*)
- 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 food pantry
- Hunger Action Network of NE Ohio
- 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 - 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/Debit Card, PayPal, or Venmo.

- **Donate by check** – with the check made out to one of the eleven food pantries – and then given to Pastor Scott who will pass it on to the appropriate food pantry.
- **Drop-off point for canned goods, non-perishable food items, and paper products** - Tremont West Development Corp offices' side porches (2406 Professor) or Zion Church/San Sofia Apartments.
- **Deadlines: For delivery before the holidays, items must be turned in by Sunday, December 18th. A second delivery will be made in mid-January, 2023 for items donated after the 18th.**
(NOTE: The Tremont West offices are closed December 23rd - January 2nd and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023). Deliveries during that time can only be made to Zion Church and not to the Tremont West offices.
- **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 eleven local food pantries-ministries 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 624 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of December 8th, 2022. 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 and family
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) in Alliance, Ohio
- Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music – in rehab following surgery*)
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara, Reed, Nancy Moore's sister.
- 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 been moved to: **Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408 Strongsville, Oh 44136** 440-238-3361 ext. 5071—
- Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter
- Patricia Matheny (prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray)
- Patricia Kellogg's friend Steve Roberts (56) passing on Nov 23 from long COVID (he had in 2020) affecting heart and lungs. Prayer for his family and friends.
- Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)
- Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
- Debbie Webb (*Debbie has recently fallen and suffered a broken femur. She is at home recovering*).
- Beverly Wurm-- great grandson, Orion (4 yrs.) has received medication that is working to improve condition.

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

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.

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

Please be sure to note "Hurricanes 2022 Fund" in the memo section.