



A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY
GROWING. CARING. SERVING.



CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2023

Please silence your cell phones. Thank you!



Welcome to Worship

Welcome to worship on this Holy Day. Around the world Christians gather to sing, hear the story and be met by Jesus Christ in the bread and cup. Jesus Christ is here for you. Know that all are welcome at Communion, where Jesus is host and meal.

PREACHING: Pastor Sue Wallager

READER: Caroline Baker

ORGAN: KT Thompson

PIANO: Deb Oas Koepsell

PRELUDE: "Angels We Have Heard on High; What Child Is This"..... arr. Smith & Hustad

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds to find the Savior!

Let us go with the wise ones to find God's promise, born for us!

Let us go with the poor and humble to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship and adore him: Christ the Lord!

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin-ing

cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; in and to the

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -

Refrain
night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No -
tin-ued both day and night.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

GREETING

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Today Christ is born! From the realms of glory, angels sing. From fields, keeping their watch by night, shepherds arrive. And we too have come to the manger to see the newborn king. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray...

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

GATHERING HYMN: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* 288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

FIRST OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

CAROL: *Once in David's Royal City*, vs 1 & 2 269

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a Soprano staff (treble clef) and a Bass staff (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the staves, with two verses indicated by the numbers 1 and 2. The first system covers the first two lines of the first verse. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are: 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child. with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

SECOND OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, we were saved, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit was poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by God's grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

CAROL: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, vs 1 & 2 275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:8-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: by Pastor Sue Wallager

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Emmanuel, God with us...

Hear our prayers

SHARING THE PEACE:

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Share the peace with a wave and word of peace.)

MANY WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT: 763-710-2209

ONLINE

www.zionanoka.org

click on "GIVE TODAY"

ELECTRONIC GIVING

<https://cutt.ly/ziongivetoday>

or



MEAL

OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC:

Christmas Carols arr. Ehert/Evans

KT Thompson, accordion

For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,

when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION/SPECIAL MUSIC:

Christmas Carols arr. Ehert/Evans
KT Thompson, accordion

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER:

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is born!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: "Joy to the World"..... arr. Held

HOSPITAL VISITS AND PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member are in the hospital or have had a change in your health status and would like a pastoral visit, please call the church office at 763-421-4656, email Kristine at kjohnson@zionanoka.org or Pr. Sue at swallager@zionanoka.org or let any of the pastors know. The pastoral staff will be very happy to visit you and provide pastoral care. Thank you.

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

One of Zion's most important ministries is reaching out to our homebound members. We do this by radio, Cable-TV and livestreaming of worship services, visits by our Visitation Minister Ken Johnson, Zion's monthly newsletter "The Herald" and monthly services at assisted living facilities. Sharing Holy Communion is one of the most meaningful ways we connect with our homebound members. Zion has a visitation team that provides this ministry. If you or a family member would like a monthly home communion visit please call the church office at 763-421-4656. We are also looking for kind, caring souls to add to our visitation team. Please contact Pastor Sue at swallager@zionanoka.org if you would like to become part of the *Home Communion Visitation Team*.

CONGREGATIONAL GODPARENTS NEEDED

Every child needs AAA (authentic, available and affirming) adults in their lives – the more the better! At Zion we believe in "marinating" our children in prayer and being present from the beginning. That is why we have Congregational Godparents – AAA adults who are willing to be present at the baptism of a child and pray for them every day and send cards (which are provided) on their birthdays and the anniversary of their baptism. It's an easy job, but a vital one. We are in need of people who would like to be part of this ministry and be present at the baptism. Contact Pastor Connie at ctiede@zionanoka.org or Kristine Johnson at kjohnson@zionanoka.org for more information.

SUPPORT OUR RADIO BROADCAST ON BOB-FM

Every Sunday morning at 9:10 AM, Zion's traditional worship service is broadcast on BOB-FM (106.1). Our radio broadcast covers a good portion of the state of Minnesota and reaches several hundred listeners each Sunday, including many who do not have internet capability. Special gifts to support Zion's Radio Broadcast Fund are welcome. Gifts may be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion such as a wedding anniversary. Thank you to recent supporters of the Radio Broadcast Fund.

**WE WELCOME YOU
TO WORSHIP**

**Hearing Assistance
Units Available**

*Hearing assistance units
are available at the
sound booth at the
back of the Sanctuary.*

Mobility Concerns

*We have areas in the
sanctuary where a
wheelchair or walker will
fit. Ushers can assist you.*

Children Welcome

*Activity bags are
available outside the
sanctuary. We have two
"pray grounds" in the
sanctuary with plenty of
places just outside the
sanctuary as well where
children can sit and play.*

LIVE STREAM

SUNDAY 9 & 11 AM

www.zionanoka.org
(click "Worship Online")
- or -

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Channel 6
SUNDAY | 10 AM & 5 PM

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106.1 BOB FM
SUNDAYS | 9:10 AM

OFFICE HOURS

M - TH: 9 AM - 5 PM
FRI: 9 AM - 12 NOON



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Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ZION PASTORS AND STAFF

The Zion pastors and staff wish all of our members and visitors and their families a wonderful Christmas filled with joy. A heartfelt thanks to ALL volunteers who shared their time and gifts to bless our services of worship this Christmas. Musicians, choirs, altar guild, ushers, decor team, greeters, readers, and everyone who helped...know that your gifts are greatly appreciated! May God bless you and your loved ones in the New Year.

POINSETTIA GARDEN

Thank you to all who donated to the poinsettia garden in honor or in memory of their loved ones.

