



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

Sunday Bulletin, December 13, 2020

Live Streaming Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM

<https://mtzionhighland.com/sermon-video>



Reverend Daniel Mejia, Lead Pastor

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Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

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10:00 a.m. Traditional Service

Prelude – *"The Angel Gabriel"*

Larissa Sanders

Welcome & Opportunities to Serve

* Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Hawthorne family,
Chad, Kathy, Connor, Adam, Ryan, Will, and Anna

L: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

A: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

L: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

A: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

L: We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

A: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

* Opening Hymn – *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear "*

UMH #218

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Musical Offering – *"The Virgin's Slumber"*

Solo: Janice Doherty

* Prayer of Dedication

First Lesson – *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

Elizabeth Tanaka

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

10:00 a.m. Traditional Service

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Gospel Lesson – John 1:1-9

Elizabeth Tanaka

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

*Hymn – "O Little Town of Bethlehem "

UMH # #230

Children's Message

Jamie Humphreys

Special Music – "Joyful"

Praise Band

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Mejia

*Closing Hymn – "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH # #206

*Sending Forth

Postlude – "Then Shall Your Light Break Forth"

Larissa Sanders

Leave to Serve God's People

*You are invited to stand in heart or posture

Welcome to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church!

We are glad God has brought you to worship with us today. We look forward to getting to know you!
If you are looking for a church home, please speak with our Pastor after the service.

Tag **Mt. Zion** on social media @mtzionhighland or #mtzionhighland

Three Ways to join the 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

Parents are invited to have your children join you as you log in to worship on Sunday morning.

Live Stream with Computer

Worship Service and Class links at <https://mtzionhighland.com/sermon-video>.

Enter Meeting ID: 841 2391 9911 / Password: 591584

Call in by Phone

301-715-8592 / Enter Meeting ID: 841 2391 9911

Watch a live stream on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/mtzionhighland/>

Sunday Morning Christian Education Programs

We invite you to join us for any of our Christian Education Programs for adults, youth, and children.

All Zoom meeting links are available at <https://mtzionhighland.com/sermon-video>

Adult Classes

Family Connections Class at 11:00 AM

Youth and Children's Sunday School Classes

Children through 5th grade Zoom Meeting at 9:00 AM

Youth Zoom Meeting 11:00 AM

Advent & Christmas Children's Ministry Theme



Scheduled Events, December 13 – 19, 2020

In compliance with Howard County’s social distancing guidelines, our building is temporarily closed.

If you cancel an event or if you plan to meet online or meet at another location during the building closure, please contact your group members and contact the office to request calendar event updates.

To receive the weekly ePointer email newsletter, send your request to office@mtzionhighland.com

All Bulletin and ePointer notices are due to office@mtzionhighland.com on Tuesday of each week. Find bulletins, ePointers, and Pointers on the website <https://mtzionhighland.com/2020-bulletin-e-pointer>

To schedule an event, check the church calendar <https://mtzionhighland.com/calendar> for room availability and then contact office@mtzionhighland.com to request a reservation.

Request Outdoor Spaces as Follows
<p>Front Porch (FP) Front Yard (FY) - area under the trees between Fellowship Hall and 216 Parking Lot (PL) Court Yard (CY) - grassy area between the wings of the building Picnic & Rec Area (PR) - grassy area inclusive of picnic tables, Gaga Ball Pit, Volleyball net, small outdoor play equipment, stone circle Youth Center Grounds (YG) - front & back yard/patio around youth center Play Ground (PG)- fenced in playground area (not available at times when Preschool is in session) Upper Field (UF) - large grassy area at the west end of the property/parking lot</p>

Scheduled Events, December 13– 19, 2020 Visit https://mtzionhighland.com/calendar	
<p>Sunday, December 13 2:00 PM: Youth Group <i>“Throw, Throw, Burrito!”</i> Monday, December 14 5:00 PM: Stephen Ministers Supervision Group Tuesday, December 15 4:00 PM: Organist 7:00 PM: SPRC 7:00 PM: Boy Scout Troop 702 Committee Wednesday, December 16 9:30 AM: Seated Exercise Class</p>	<p>11:30 AM: Ginny White 6:30 PM: Boy Scout Troop 702 7:00 PM: Winter Grace Thursday, December 17 No Scheduled Events Friday, December 18 6:30 PM: CBT Setup Saturday, December 19 8:30 AM: CBT Gather 9:00 AM: Food Pantry Distribution</p>

Shepherding Team 1 on call December 13 – 19. Contact Jill Scott at 410-964-0389.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols & Longest Night Service, Sunday, December 20, 7:00 PM.

Join us virtually for a Festival of Nine Scriptural Lessons with Carols as we celebrate the Christmas season with time-honored music performed by musicians from the Mt. Zion Church family. The Longest Night Service will give us the opportunity to pray, lament, and offer up to God the places where we may feel lonely and in need of God's comfort.

Donor Statements. All donors will receive their 2020 statement by US Mail in January, without asking. If you would like that statement by email, or an earlier year-to-date statement as you plan your December philanthropy, contact Will Scott, Financial Secretary, willjill@verizon.net.

Winter Grace Senior Ministries would like to share our first Advent Devotional. It is available as a flip-book at <https://anyflip.com/mpfyh/wqhm/> or as a downloadable PDF from [An Advent Devotional 2020](#) from Winter Grace Senior Ministries. - Winter Grace Senior Ministries, Inc.

Winter clothing drive for Ames UMC in West Baltimore. We are collecting winter items for adults and children in Baltimore City. Items needed include coats, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, and gently used clothing. Toiletry items are needed as well. The collection will continue through Friday, December 18th. Items will be distributed on Christmas day during Ames' annual Spread the Warmth event. Donations can be dropped off at the Towner's home (12339 Pleasant View Drive, Fulton, 20759) or arrange for pick up by contacting Fred Towner at 240-565-3866, fdtowner@comcast.net.

The Emergency Relief Committee's purpose is to encourage church members to reach out to each other. We have a rotating telephone tree so you would contact a different person each day. Ideally, this will help social distancing not become social isolation, as well as encourage meaningful connections and new friendships. Conversation starters would include: How are you doing? Any tips on surviving this social distancing that you would like to share? Any prayer requests? Committee Members include Deb Leiss 301-535-1319, Ken Sines 443-790-9680, the Island Family 202-386-5404, and Liam Cusack 609-233-7670. If you are interested in participating, please contact Deb Leiss.

Thank You for Your Stewardship. Mt. Zion thanks you for your continued financial support to the church during this challenging time for all of us. We know this health crisis is affecting people's lives in so many ways, emotionally, spiritually, and yes, financially, so the support you are able to give to the church means so much as we continue paying our bills. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Rob Eidson or to other Finance Committee members.

Through Our Presence & Gifts, Week Ending Sunday, December 6, 2020

Detailed monthly financial reports are available in the Treasurer's hallway mailbox.		
Financial Summary:	2020	2019
Weekly Receipts	24,388	11,515
YTD Operating Receipts	565,517	573,564
YTD Operating Disbursements	505,450	551,429

When you shop on amazonsmile (smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0748639), the amazonsmilefoundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.

The Counting Ministry needs YOUR help. Multiple spots are available on the counting team with only a one Sunday per month commitment. The Mt. Zion Counting team is responsible for recording and depositing the weekly offering. No experience necessary. Please contact Charles McEldowney at crmceldowney@verizon.net or call (410) 393-4161 to learn more.

We Serve God and God's People

Through Our Prayers: *As a shepherd cares for the sheep, so also will Christ watch over His followers, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

Our Members: *Betty Cashmark on the passing of her cousin Janet; Larry Murdoch and family on the passing of his wife Koral on November 26; Chuck Plant; Dave Sealing; Connie Gull; Jack Maloney; Don Kraft; Jean Sonneman; Lenore Holt; Frances Entsminger; George Bickerton.*

Our Homebound Members: *Frieda Youngblood*

Members' Family & Friends: *Gary Hicks; John Gaither; Charlene Fitzpatrick; Caregivers; Marian Isley; Lisa Saylor; Frank Ziegler; Steven Harrison; Bill Jensen; Chet Kulawiak; Cindy Hobbs; Loretta Howe; Our Country and the World.*

Members Serving in Our Armed Forces: *Jonyae Curry; Matthew Chadwick; Colin Klopp; Andrew Schmit; Victoria Wyler.*

Non-Members Serving in our Armed Forces: *Patrick DuBoyce; Brad Cohn; Chris Mittuch; Dan Mittuch; Rondall Waltz-Wills; Derrek Koch; Luke Tung; Jason Walker; Mariah Mead; Andre; Lt. Mitch C.*

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Names remain for one month. To add, remove, or extend a prayer request, email office@mtzionhighland.com.

News from Worship & Arts. Due to Governor Hogan's State Emergency requirements, County Executive Calvin Ball's decision to postpone relaxing restrictions in Howard County, and Bishop Easterling's mandate for all churches, we need to practice social distancing. We are using various ways for the congregation and community to participate in worship. Excited by the participation in our live streaming worship services, we continue live streaming the service at 10 AM each Sunday. Because of this order, instead of live-streaming from the sanctuary we will do this at the homes of our selected worship participants. You can log on to the service on Sunday via the link on the Mt. Zion website — www.mtzionhighland.com. These are challenging days. The staff and leadership of Mt. Zion are committed to finding new ways to help connect you not only in worship but in other areas of the church's life as well. We thank you for your commitment to Mt. Zion church and its continuing ministries.