

# ZION EVANGELICAL UNITED CHURCH

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24, 2025

Rev. Dr. Zacharia Mandara

### Our Mission Statement

*“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community, empowered to share God's love and to make disciples for Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and acts of caring.”*

### John 1:5

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

Prelude Pianist  
Violinist

Shelley Jodoin  
Miranda Lockley

Carol                      **O Come, All Ye Faithful**                      **#249**  
(Verses 1 & 2—Accompanied by Miranda Lockley on Violin)

### Welcome

Tonight, in the hush of this holy night, the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

### Call To Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

**And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

Carol                      **O Come, All Ye Faithful**                      **#249**  
(Verses 3 & 6—Accompanied by Miranda Lockley on Violin)

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath + Christ Candle

### Prayer

God of light, on this holy night your Son came as a tiny child to bring light to a weary world. As this Christ candle burns, fill our hearts with the warmth of your love and the hope of your peace.

**Amen.**

**Carol                      *Angels We Have Heard On High*                      #278**

### *The Christmas Story in Scripture and Carols*

**Scripture                      *Luke 2: 1-7*                      Susan Hanniman**  
*The Birth of Jesus*

**Carol                      *Away In A Manger*                      #261**

**Scripture                      *Luke 2: 8-14*                      Susan Hanniman**

**Carol                      *The First Noel*                      #265**  
*(Accompanied by Miranda Lockley on Violin)*

**Choir                      *"Gentle Jesus"***

**Scripture                      *Luke 2: 15-20*                      Bailey Jodoin**  
*Shepherds Visit the Manger*

**Carol                      *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*                      #272**

**Scripture                      *John 1: 1-14*                      Bailey Jodoin**  
*The Word Became Flesh*

**Violinist                                      Miranda Lockley**  
*"The Huron Carol"*  
*('Twas In The Moon of Wintertime")*

## Reflection

The eternal God stepped into time, put on skin, and moved into the neighborhood—“God With Us”. Whatever darkness you carry, the Light has come. The darkness cannot overcome it!

## Christmas Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty God, in the stillness of the night, You sent forth your Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of the Virgin Mary, bringing light to a world wrapped in darkness. We gather today, mindful of the shepherds who saw the glory of the Lord, and the Wise Men who followed the star, to worship You and celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation.

**We thank you for the gift of your presence for Emmanuel, God with us, a love made visible in the vulnerability of a child. We thank you for the light of your hope that shines in the face of despair, for the peace that surpasses all understanding, and for the joy that is our strength.**

Father, as we look around our world this Christmas, we lift up all those who feel distant from the warmth and hope of this season. For those who are lonely, grieving, or hurting, may the profound love born in Bethlehem bring comfort and companionship. **Shine your light in their darkness.**

For those in places of conflict and injustice, bring your promised peace. Inspire leaders and nations to seek reconciliation and to defend the dignity of every human life—the poor, the marginalized, and the refugee. **Move our hearts to greater compassion and generosity, that we may be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing our abundance and offering shelter and welcome.**

Renew our sense of awe at the miracle of Christmas, that we might not take this sacred story for granted.

**Strengthen our resolve to follow the example of Jesus, by actively serving our neighbors, speaking the truth in love, and living lives that reflect the transforming power of your grace.**

Fill our homes and hearts with the lasting joy that the angels proclaimed, making us true witnesses to the good news. God of the Manger, God of the Cross, and God of the Empty Tomb, let the light of Christ dispel all fear, let the love of Christ bind us together, and let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, this Christmas day and always.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World, who taught us to pray, saying, **Our Father...**

**Candlelight Carol** **#253**

***Silent Night! Holy Night!***  
*(Everyone stands with candles lit.)*

**Carol** ***Joy To The World!*** **#270**

*(Accompanied by Miranda Lockley on Violin)*

**Benediction** *(Lit candles are raised.)*

May the God who came as a baby in Bethlehem fill you with wonder tonight, walk with you through every shadow tomorrow, and bring you at last into the fullness of his everlasting light. Go in peace. Christ is born. May your Christmas Eve be filled with awe, warmth, and the unmistakable presence of Emmanuel God with us. Merry Christmas!

**Carol** ***Go, Tell It on The Mountain*** **#258**

**Postlude** **Shelley Jodoin**



