

THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO  
CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

*an Advent Series*

HOPE



**December 1, 2024**

**Mt. Zion Church**

122 Bayard Road, Lothian, Maryland 20711

Office Phone 410-867-4035

Email: [mz@mzumc.com](mailto:mz@mzumc.com) & Web Page: [www.mzumc.com](http://www.mzumc.com)

***Staff at Mt. Zion***

*Senior Pastor – Pastor Heath Wilson*

*[pastorheath@mzumc.com](mailto:pastorheath@mzumc.com) 410-758-7707 Call/Text*

*Administrative Assistant – Christi Noell – [christi@mzumc.com](mailto:christi@mzumc.com)*

*Minister of Worship and the Arts - Sarah Brosvic - [sarah@mzumc.com](mailto:sarah@mzumc.com)*

*Director of Discipleship and Transformation - Kaula Jacks - [kaula@mzumc.com](mailto:kaula@mzumc.com)*

*Marketing Assistant – Julie Hawkins – [julie@mzumc.com](mailto:julie@mzumc.com)*

# 9:00am Worship Service

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Welcome & Opening Prayer

\*Opening Hymn & Entrance of the Light of Christ

*“People Look East”*

#202

Advent Candle Prayer and Lighting - Hope

*Heavenly Father, Advent is a time for reflecting on both the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and his coming return. Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas. Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the Old Testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture.*

*You showed us a glimmer of that hope as you chose to send your son into this earth through a family tree that was a little bent and scarred. We glanced at it again as you chose a tribe that was small and a city that was lowly. It can be seen when we recognize that you don't send your Son to be birthed in a fancy palace among the wealthy and the elite, but our King of Kings and Lord of Lords was born among common shepherds and livestock in a barn. Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior.*

*That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.*

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

Praises and Prayers

**The 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. Amen**

Scripture Reading

**Isaiah 11:1-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-18**

Children's Time

Choir Anthem

*“Comfort Ye”*

**Mt. Zion Choir**

**Natalie Sleeth**

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*“The Gospel According to Christmas Specials” Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”*

Communion and Offering

\*Closing Hymn

*“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

Benediction

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## Prayer Concerns

### December 1 thru December 8

Genie Greenwell - recovering well at home from knee injury

Allen Kammer - depression and anxiety, finding the right medication to help

Nancy Lane - South River Healthcare Center, Edgewater

Al MacDonald - AAMC room 676 South

Joanna Mauck - at home recovering from a mini stroke

Pat Minor - dr. appointments and preparing for hip surgery on 12/20

Charlie & Teresa Seibel - loss of cousin, Adella from heart issues

Stephanie Taylor - knee injury

Julie Wilson - medical concerns from mold exposure

### Our Extended Prayer Concerns – Family & Friends

Bill & Lori Carrol - Lori battling dementia and Alzheimer’s, Bill is caring for her

Pat Castellucci - health concerns with heat and kidneys

Leslie Ellis - health and healing

Steve Ellis - health and healing

Faye - in a coma, had back surgery and hasn’t woken up yet

Krissa Harris - cancer

Harris/Proctor Families - house fire, total loss

Melissa Kilpatrick – continued strength

Nancy Reinhard - continued weight gain and strength

Richardson Family - loss of Gina from long battle of cancer

Stewart Family - loss of Cynthia Stewart, Cal her husband passed away a month ago

Mike Wilkins - treatments for throat cancer

Linda Wright - treatments helping her get stronger

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### **Participants**

Greeters:

Acolytes:

### **Today**

Mary Cranford

Ashley & Owen

### **Next Week**

Mary Cranford

Kent & Addison

# Announcements

## Join Us Today - Sunday, December 1 - 3:00-5:00pm Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

Please plan on coming out to this special community event starting at 3:00pm. Enjoy the music of Unclouded Day. We will have desserts and drinks and a special free ornament for all Families. There will be trees and a large cross and they will be lit at 5:00pm.

## Advent Devotionals

Please take an Advent Devotional, there are ones for Adults, Families and Kids. Please feel free to take more than one, there are several.

## Craft Time Following the Children's Time for the Month of December

For the month of December following the Children's Time, all kids and youth can head over to the area next to Miss Sarah and work on crafts led by the WYLD youth.

## Poinsettias

Look for the flyers in the bulletin for the next several weeks to purchase a Poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$12 per plant and you may take them home following the Christmas Eve services.

## Blessing Boxes - Food Needed

Please consider donating non-perishable items for our Blessing Boxes on the Field of Grace. We have been going through food a lot faster this season and we need to replenish the supplies. You can bring items or you can contribute with a monetary donation, please make sure you mark on your check or envelope "Blessing Box". Thank you for your support of this ministry to our community.

## Sunday, December 15 - 12:00pm - Christmas Caroling

We are planning a caroling trip to visit our shut-ins and members of the MZ community that have had a rough year on Sunday, December 15 after Sunday School. We will have a quick lunch around 12pm and then head out to carol. Please join us! Any questions, please see Pastor Heath.

## December 24 - 5:00pm & 9:00pm - Christmas Eve Services

Please join us for one or both of our Christmas Eve Services. The 5:00pm service is geared toward kids and families. Our 9:00pm service is our Candlelight/ Communion service. Invite your family and friends and come and be blessed by our Christmas Eve worship.

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**Birthday: 12/6 Joanna Mauck**