

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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(*) Please stand either in body or in spirit.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Matthew 3:1—12

“How do we determine what actions are worthy of God and bear good fruit in our world?”

Gathering Music: “Glory (Let There Be Peace)”

The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Lisa Krueckeberg
(Visitors, please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: “Carol Of The Bells”

*The Prelude calls us together. It is a time of quiet reflection to focus ourselves
in preparation for worshipping God.*

The Light appears:

The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

*Call to Worship:

Liturgist

At the start of every day, God shakes us awake to the possibility of reconciliation and joyful abundance.

**May our Great Redeemer, who judges all with righteousness,
reward the tyrannized with justice.**

In every season, God tends to the child within us, bringing into harmony all distress and despair.

**May our Beloved Emmanuel defend the cause of the deprived,
give deliverance to the abused, and overwhelm the will of their
persecutors.**

Throughout all generations, God bestows upon the people a peace that is everlasting.

**May the Prince of Peace rain down blessed mercy upon the people,
showering the earth with righteousness and peace.**

*Hymn of Praise: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

No. 133

*Invocation: (Unison)

Liturgist

Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest of our daily lives. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale the turmoil within.

*Passing the Peace of Christ:

Liturgist

Jesus is our peace. He has reconciled us to God; born in a manger and died on the cross. We meet in the name of Jesus and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life:

Rev. Kahler

Gentle God, it has been too long since your people have known peace. We turn away from the ugliness hidden behind closed doors, from the ravages of war, from the famine and genocide that stalk our siblings around the world. We've lost hope, lost our faith in the possibility of a small act's power to change. We talk and talk, all the while forgetting that we are not just your mouthpiece, but your hands and feet. Remind us, Redeemer, how to show up for justice. Teach us how to transform this ragged hope into peace for all.

Words of Grace:

The Scripture Reading: Romans 15:4—13

Liturgist

Pew Bible pg. 962

The Choir Anthem: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Chancel Choir

Lighting Of The Advent Wreath: The Advent of Hope" by Andrew Kooman

Jayce Neuenschwander, Claudia Strickler

“The Advent of Peace”
Jan Miller, Anson Shaffer

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer Spoken and Silent:

The Prayer of Our Savior:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

The Prayer Response:

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 3: 1-12

Rev. Kahler
Pew Bible, pg.803

The Word of God for the People of God: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Sermon Hymn:

“The First Noel”

No.136, vs. 1,2,6

The Sermon:

“Not All Actions Are Created Equal”

The Moment of Offering:

Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication: (Unison)

Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and our world. On every street corner, beside rivers, lakes, oceans, at the top of your tallest mountains, and dwelling below the cliffs, your people are in need. Take these gifts to strengthen

our church and bring relief to your beloved children. Amen.

The Offering:

Ushers serve

The Offertory Music: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen**

*The Hymn of Commitment: “I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day”
No. 152

*Benediction:

Raised Above: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year **A** was written by the Maria Mankin.

*The Song Of Departing Friends: “As With Gladness Men of Old”

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord,
may we evermore be led to Thee.**

*The Light is carried forth

Acolytes serve

*The Worship Leaders exit

*The Moment for Silent Prayers

Chimes

*The Postlude: “Go, Tell It On The Mountain”

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Each of Us

Minister of Christ

Rev. Allen Kahler

Minister

Barb Engle

Congregation President

Jan Miller

Board Secretary

Maggie Bolinger

Office Secretary

Stacey Smith
Lisa Krueckeberg
Shelly Nussbaum
Kacie Shaffer
Justin Shaffer

Church Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Music Director/Church Organist
Custodian
Building Manager

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Scott Heller, Jan Miller
Scott & Brenda Strickler
Ushers
Myra Gaunt

Door Greeters
Ushers
Acolytes
Money Counter

We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors are asked to take a few moments to sign the Friendship Folder located in each pew and place in the offering plate.

Please join us in the dining room after worship for a time of fellowship and cookies, coffee, and punch.

Our Operation Help products for December will be baking items such as flour, sugar, cake mix, etc. Please place your donations in the bins in the dining room and West vestibule. Demand at Operation Help has increased considerably and any donations are much appreciated.

Bible Study continues this Thursday morning in the lounge at 10:30 a.m. Please join us as we continue our study of the letters of John. We will meet on December 18th and discuss the Advent devotional, as well as any questions you might have about the previous lessons.

Flower and Bulletin Charts for 2026 can be found in the West Vestibule. Flowers are \$30 per week and bulletins \$10. Please note the names of those who are being honored or remembered.

Please submit any reports for the 2025 Annual Report to the office no later than **January 15th**. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated so that the report can be mailed in late January or early February.

No College Boxes will be sent in December. Our next boxes will be sent January 11th. We will have 1 boy and 1 girl next semester.

We are adding a new worship service to our Christmas season, a “Blue Christmas Service” on Sunday, December 21st. This service supports those for whom the holidays may be a challenge due to loss, grief, or adversity, as well as for those wishing just a quiet space. Please invite friends and family and join us for a candlelight service at 6 p.m. **The service will not be live-streamed to ensure the privacy of those in attendance.**

We are now enrolled into the Kroger Community Rewards Program, which donates a percentage of your purchases to Zion. Visit <http://www.kroger.com> to log into your Kroger account. Once signed into your account, go to “Community Rewards” and search for ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account in order to participate. Rewards cards are also available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your organization until you register your *rewards* card. Participants must swipe their registered Kroger *rewards* card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger *rewards* card for each purchase to count. This does not affect your Kroger fuel points in any way. Thank you!

The Advent devotionals, “Soon, And Very Soon” are available in the vestibules and at the Third Street Entrance. Please take one and share it with anyone who might enjoy them.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, Dec.10: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14: Official Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.

website: www.zionuccdecatur.org

e-mail: office: office@zionuccdecatur.org

pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's Worship Attendance:

Offering: \$

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Scan here to make your donation via Paypal

