

On December 15, we will be covering Chapter 6 “Plotting Goodness”.

Please bring your Bible. The Scripture readings we will be studying are:

Genesis 12:1-9

Galatians 3:6-9

Mark 11:15-19

Please bring your book. If you need a book or have questions, contact Missy Hoffman at mkh060455@gmail.com.

Polar Express Party

at Zion Lutheran Church
Friday, December 20, 7pm

Join us in watching “Polar Express” in the sanctuary. Come enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Everyone is welcome!

Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn

at Wittel Farm
Sunday, December 22, 7pm

Join us for an intimate evening of scripture, hymns and songs, prayers and joyful music. We gather in the barn around a manger for this annual tradition, with candlelight, hot cocoa and cookies.

You can RSVP on the Lutheran Camping Corporation website.

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024



Zion Lutheran Church

435 Main Street, Akron PA 17501 717. 859. 2100

Check our website: www.zionakron.org and
Facebook page.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Welcome, guests and friends, to worship this morning. We gather to give thanks to God our creator and savior. Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

GATHERING

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C Amen.

Park at the parking lot across from the playground and you’ll be directed to the luminary path. Following the walk, caroling and refreshments will await in Pavilion 1. Local folk artists, the Harmony Singers, will be headlining the music groups. Flashlights are highly recommended. All ages are welcome to attend this family event!

For more info contact Tom Burnett | Cell: 717-466-4218 | Email: tgburnett@gmail.com

They still need a few volunteers to help out:

1. Donations of cookies 20 more dozen (we have almost 60 dozen but are expecting more people this year) Cookies should be delivered to the Pavilion 1 between 4:30 and 5:00 pm on Saturday, the 8th
2. Two helpers to set up early in the day (setting up lights, washing the tables, sweeping the pavilion)
3. Beginning at 2:45 on Saturday 2-4 more volunteers to help set up the luminaries
4. Need two more volunteers to walk the trails during the event
5. Need two volunteers to help with traffic flow at the food lines especially from 5:30 - 7 pm
6. Volunteers to help serve food - 3 more folks would be great - shifts are 5:00- 6:45 set up and serve line 1 and 6:45 - 8:30 serve and clean up line
7. Photo Booth - need 1 volunteer for each of the 6:30-7:15 and 7:15 - 8:00 shifts

If you can help, please contact or Tina Mast Burnett, 2tburnett@gmail.com, or text/call 717-538-4516

Sunday Learning Group: "We Make The Road By Walking"

1st and 3rd Sundays

Sunday, December 15 at Michael & Irma Kelly's Home

85 Saint Matthew Road, Lititz

11:30 AM (a bit later start due to Breakfast Church)

We are studying Brian McLaren's, "We Make The Road By Walking". McLaren comments about his book that "Christian faith is still 'in the making'. It continues to grow, evolve, learn, change, emerge, and mature ... in and through us. I want to introduce people to a vision of the Christian faith and the biblical narrative not as a box, set in stone, and not as a parking lot (where we await the ferry to heaven), but as a road ... that is extended into the future by all of us, walking forward in the Spirit together."

Come join us as together we walk wisely and joyfully into the future of our faith, learning, growing and changing, journeying together to make the road!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Evening Vespers

6:30pm

meeting by Zoom (link in weekly newsletter) or Facebook live.

Come together for simplified evening prayer followed by social conversation.

Poinsettias for Christmas

This Christmas season, we invite you to honor the memory of a loved one by sponsoring a poinsettia for our church. For a donation of \$8, you can dedicate a poinsettia in memory of someone special, and their name will be listed in our church bulletin as part of this meaningful tribute.

If you would like to participate, please contact Saralyn Jantzi in the church office by December 16. Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary a place of beauty and reflection as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Cookies for Peter's Porch

In collaboration with the Ephrata Baseball Association we are planning to provide Christmas cookies for our guests at Peter's Porch on December 21st.

We are planning for each group to provide:

- 40 bags
- 6 cookies in each bag (zip lock bags are okay), homemade or purchased

If you're interested in providing cookies, please let Saralyn Jantzi know by calling or emailing the office. We currently need 10 more bags of cookies.

Thank you to those that have already signed up!

Christmas Luminary Walk!

at Roland Park

Saturday, December 14, 5:30pm-8pm

Coordinated by Pilgrims Mennonite and sponsored by the churches in Akron

Join us for a Christmas Luminary Walk. This is a free evening with carols, music, homemade cookies, hot cocoa, and walking two paths lit by around 800 luminary lanterns through the evergreen woods and an option of a flat/easier trail that starts near the playground parking lot.

GATHERING HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" (ELW 264)



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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ADVENT LITANY

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord have mercy.

P Christ have mercy.

C Christ have mercy.

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord have mercy.

P Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**C You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

P Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

**C to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

P This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**C free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you,
all the days of our life.**

P And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before
the Lord to prepare the way,

C to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

P In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**C to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (ELW 242) verse 1



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Ron Ayers, Suzanne Baumgardner, Doris Bernadicci, Bonnie Bleacher, Kirsten Blose and family, Stephanie Cambell, Logan Dohner, Arthur Drescher, Tracy Fox and family, Tim Hertzog, Lois Hicks, Len and Janet Hoffman, Waltraut Karklins, friends and family of Skip Kopp, Karen Laudenslager, Phil Lehman and his sister Karen, Jacob Longenecker, Linda Losito, Susan Mindermann, family and friends of Paul Moore, Gisela Pilarte, Nancy Reber, Roberts and Cropper families, Marie Rosati, Shirley Royer, Michael Royer, Judy Schaffer, the family of David Schwalm, Dale Shepherd, Jerry Solomon, Dayton Stauffer, Don Trupe, Martha Weidman and Family, Jim and Sandy Young

COMING UP NEXT

Every Wednesday, 8:15-9:30 am: Morning Meditation. At Zion Lutheran Church.

Every Wednesday, 6:30pm: Wednesday Evening Vespers. Meeting by zoom or Facebook live. The link for zoom is in the weekly newsletter.

Today, 11:15am: Rail Trail Church. Meet at Warwick TWP Building in pavilion.

December 14, 5:30pm-8pm: Christmas Luminary Walk. See Announcements for more info.

December 15, 11:30am: Sunday Learning Group.

December 20, 7pm: Polar Express Party. At Zion Lutheran Church.

December 21, 8am: Peter's Porch.

December 22, 11:15am: Rail Trail Church. Meet at Warwick TWP Building in pavilion.

December 22, 7pm: Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn. At Wittel Farm.

December 23-27: Church Office Closed.

December 25: NO Morning Meditation.

Birthdays and anniversaries this week:

10th - Janet Chalfant

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

(Please be seated)

We begin this time of listening with silence. What do you need to hear today? What toxic, painful, or disturbing words have you heard that you need to delete, erase, or forget?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH “Light One Candle” (ELW 240) Verse 2



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

SENDING

BLESSING

L Keep awake! The days are surely coming, says the Lord. Stand up and raise your heads, for your redemption is drawing near. May the one who was and is and is to come, the almighty God, ruler of heaven and earth, the son of man who comes with the clouds, and the Holy Spirit giver of light, dwell in your hearts and give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (ELW 257) (Verses 3 and 4)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un - quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast-closed though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of joy in - to all life ex-pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -

bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly, por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let

high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly. loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er." con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion. me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of Jesus Christ, who was and is and will come again, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, and grant you peace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray:

C Generous God,
 we thank you for the gift of life,
 for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,
 for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,
 for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
 as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Wait for the Lord" (ELW 262)

Sung once before and once after the gospel reading:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
 Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Repeat Gospel Acclamation

PREACHING OF THE WORD Rev. Dr. Matthew Lenahan

We conclude this time of listening with silence. What did you hear god saying to you? What will you carry with you, repeat, or hear as an echo after you leave here? What words do you need to share with someone else?

LAMB OF GOD (ELW 195)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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SONG DURING COMMUNION “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” (ELW 488)

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and
haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor gives thanks to God for the gifts of creation, for the cross of Christ and the means of salvation, for the bread and cup that become His body and blood, and for the Holy Spirit, sent to dwell in our hearts and minds by faith. 'Eucharist' literally means 'thanksgiving' and so we come to the table with thankful hearts lifted up to God, the giver of life.

We hear the instructions of St. Paul to the Corinthian church on celebrating the Lord's Supper; and we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples: "Take and eat, take and drink, this is my body, this is my blood, given and shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Trust that Christ is present for you in this meal.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

C Come, Lord Jesus, in the bread and cup we share.

COMMUNION

We practice the ancient rite of the Lord's Supper every week. All people who hunger for God's grace and peace in their lives are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Please come forward in the center aisle, take an empty cup, kneel at the altar, and return by the side aisle. In this meal, you are joined with Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you receive God's strength for daily life. We are sent from the table to serve others in his name. We offer gluten free bread and grape juice, as an alternative to the bread and wine, for those who require or prefer it. All are fed at the table of grace!

HYMN OF THE DAY "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" (ELW 256)



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olarius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

NICENE CREED *A confessing church publicly announces our faith in the Trinity.*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need of God's compassionate mercy; The response is; God of hope, **hear our prayer.***

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with one another; a hug. Handshake, and the words "peace be with you".

MEAL

OFFERING

*We receive an offering for the mission and ministry of the church. Your gifts support weekly worship, pastoral ministry, and service to those in need locally and globally. **Please deposit your gifts in the offering plate located on the stand in the back of the sanctuary.** You may also give online at www.zionakron.org.*

OFFERING SONG "Accept O Lord the Gifts We Bring"



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
 Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray:

C Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L The Lord be with you,

C And also with you

L Lift up your hearts,

C We lift them up to the LORD.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.