

“The Old, Old Story” - Zion Lutheran School Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Zion Lutheran Church, 186 Cole Road, Monroe, MI

Thank you for coming to our school Christmas service!

The Zion students and teachers are excited to be able to share the message of Jesus’ birth with you this morning in Word and song. Please be considerate of the following requests:

- **As you enter our worship space, we ask that you find your seats in a quiet and respectful manner, and that you and others attending be appreciative of the student musicians’ efforts as you listen to the preservice music prepared by them. Please keep any conversation quiet and to a minimum.**
- **Please silence your cell phone.**
- **The service is being recorded and will be streamed and available on our church website. We ask that phones and cameras be put away so that both the children and the congregation can focus on the message from God’s Word. After the service you are very welcome to come to the front and take pictures with your child and family.**

We thank you for your kind consideration, and pray that this evening’s service of praise to our glorious God and Savior may be a blessing to you.

Bulletin Cover Artists: Gwen Hill, Emmalyn Hiner, Vera Davidson, Nathan Freiny, Noelle Hatfield. Amiya Epps, Jana Dugan, Kayley Grubb, Enna Sitzman

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Preservice Music by Zion piano students

Jamil Dunlap, Emmett Letasse, Noelle Hatfield, Mason Barker, Lukas Freiny, Joseph Ortiz, KJ Dunlap, JJ Burke, Lily Heck, Jonah Burke, Enna Sitzman, Bryce Mueller, Kate Lach, Eloise Sordahl, Jana Dugan, Ezekiel Sitzman, Gwen Hill, Levi Fager

Opening Processional Hymn - Congregation & Children: "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

***On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful king's birth.***

***Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad:
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad:
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.***

***When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn king.***

***All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen.***

Invocation

Pastor: We begin our worship this evening in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen

Responsive Psalm verses - Pastor and Congregation

Pastor: I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;

Congregation: I will tell of all your wonders.

Pastor: Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you;

Congregation: Were I to speak and tell of them they would be too many to declare.

Pastor: Come and listen all you who fear God;
Congregation: *Let me tell you what he has done for me.*

Pastor: I will utter hidden things, things from of old – what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.
Congregation: *We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation.*

Pastor: So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born,
Congregation: *And they in turn would tell their children.*

Christmas Prayer - Pastor

Pastor's Message

Song - Children: "I Love to Tell the Story"

Introduction - Pastor

The Story Wanted

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8

Hymn - Congregation: "Little Children Can You Tell"

***Little children, can you tell, do you know the story well,
Every girl and every boy, why the angels sing for joy
On the Christmas morning?***

***For a little Babe that day, cradled in a manger lay,
Born on earth our Lord to be; this the wondering angels see
On the Christmas morning.***

***Joy our little hearts shall fill, peace and love and all goodwill;
This fair Babe of Bethlehem children loves, and blesses them
On the Christmas morning.***

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8

The Story Told, Part 1: The Story Begins

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8

Narration - Pastor

Genesis 3:5 - Grades 1-2

Genesis 3:15 - Kindergarten

Hymn - Congregation: "Come, O Precious Ransom, Come"

*Come, oh precious ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view; anxiously we wait for you.*

*Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine when you art my guest divine!*

*Hail, hosanna, David's Son! Help, Lord, hear our supplication!
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail, hosanna! to our king.*

The Story Told, Part 2: The Story Fulfilled

Narration - Pastor

Hebrews 11:9-10 - Grades 3-4

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8

Song - Kindergarten and Grades 1-2: "Away In a Manger"

All Students: "Tell us the old, old story from Luke 2."

Congregation reads together Luke 2:1-20

Men: *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.*

Women: *So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

Men: *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

All : *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Men: *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

Women: *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

Song - Warrior Voices: "Silent Night"

The Story Told, Part 3: The Story Seen

Narration - Pastor

John 1:14 - Grades 1-2

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8 Boys

Song - Grades 3-8: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Narration - Pastor

Matthew 16:21 - Grades 3-4

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8 Girls

Hymn - Congregation: "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

***Let us all with gladsome voice, praise the God of Heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, his own Son hath given.***

***To this vale of tears He comes, here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in Heav'ns fair home we may reign in gladness.***

***We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder.***

***O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!***

The Story Told, Part 4: The Story of Victory

Narration - Pastor

John 11:25 - Kindergarten

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8

Interlude - Zion Chime Choir: "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" and "Once in Royal David's City"

The Story Told, Part 5: The Story for Us

Narration - Pastor

Speaking Choir - Grades 5-8

Song - Children: "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

Benediction and Announcements - Pastor

Closing Hymn - Congregation & Children: "Joy To the World"

***Joy to the world; the Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.***

Thank you to our students and teachers for their preparations and presentation of God's Word to us this evening!

Thank you to God for giving us voices to speak and sing, gifts and abilities to glorify Him, and a reason to declare his praises in our worship and in our lives. Christ the Savior is born!

You and your family are welcome to join us at Zion Lutheran Church for
Christmas Worship:

Christmas Eve Worship, Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship - Sunday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

God's blessings to your family as you celebrate Christ's birth!