

Third Sunday  
OF  
**Advent**  
December 14, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

✚ *Please stand in body or in spirit*

*We are pleased to welcome all who have come to worship  
with us this morning! Your presence is a blessing.*



PRELUDE

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY: Welcome & Announcements

✚ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

✚ CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively):

To those wandering in darkness,

**Christ came as the Light of the World.**

To those who are at odds with others and themselves,

**Christ is the Prince of Peace.**

To those who seek the presence of the divine,

**Christ is Emmanuel, God with us.**

**Come, let us anticipate the advent of our Lord.**

✚ OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Almighty King" ..... UMH 61

✚ COLLECT (unison)

**O Lord our God, most merciful and mighty: Fill our hearts with joy and our tongues with praise  
as we prepare to celebrate the festival of our Savior's birth. Stir up in our hearts the precious  
gift of faith, that he may be born anew in us, and that his presence may shed abroad in our  
hearts the light of heavenly joy and peace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

(LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE.)

We light the candles of hope in the midst of waiting and longing for God to make the world right again.

(LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE.)

We light the candle of peace, our hearts rejoicing that God has saved, God is saving, and God shall save.

(LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE.)

We light the candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the  
day when all creation shall flourish together.

ADVENT CAROL: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" verse 4 ..... UMH 218

PSALTER: Psalm 146 (with sung response)..... UMH 858

ANTHEM ..... Choir

HEBREW LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10 (p 709)

A song of hope to exiles in Babylon.

EPISTLE LESSON: James 5:7-10 (p 1199)

"Be patient...until the coming of the Lord."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

✚ FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY ..... UMH 94

✚ DEDICATION

✚HYMN: "O Come O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1-4).....UMH 211  
 ✚GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 11:2-11 (pp 965-96)  
 John the Baptist, in prison, sends a question to Jesus: "Are you the One who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"  
 MESSAGE: *A Portrait of Love* ..... Pastor Jim Pugh  
 ✚CLOSING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" .....UMH 213  
 ✚BENEDICTION  
 POSTLUDE

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

***Mom & Dad***

by Jamie, Cathy & family.

Children's activity sheets (ages 3+ and ages 7+) are available in the Narthex.

**Lectionary Readings for Sun., December 21, 2025**

Isaiah 7:10-16    Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Romans 1:1-7    Matthew 1:18-25

Give to God  
 through  
 Zion UMC



Sound:	Craig Duerling	Accompanist:	Irene Howard
Greeter:	Gloria Brake	Choir Director:	Karla Wilkins
Videographer:	Brandon Crawford	Scripture:	Susan Robinson
Ushers:	Gene Williams & Tom Wilson	Pastor:	Jim Pugh
Advent Readers:	Spicer Leaming & Joe Turner		

**ATTENDANCE**

Sun., December 7, 2025: In-person: 37    Online: 18

**Zion's Mission Statement**

The mission of Zion UMC is to provide a loving community to welcome all who seek a Gospel-based commitment with Jesus Christ, through which their relationship with Him can thrive and to provide opportunities to serve others in His name.

**Zion's Core Values**

- Worship is the core of our life together.
- We are family.
- We grow disciples.
- We honor God by serving others.
- We live as God's stewards.
- We respect our heritage.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Praise and Prayer Concerns may be emailed to [office@zionumccambridge.org](mailto:office@zionumccambridge.org).  
 They will not be read during today's service, but added to next week's list.  
 Check us out on our website: [ZionUMCCambridge.org](http://ZionUMCCambridge.org),  
 like us on Facebook: Zion UMC Cambridge