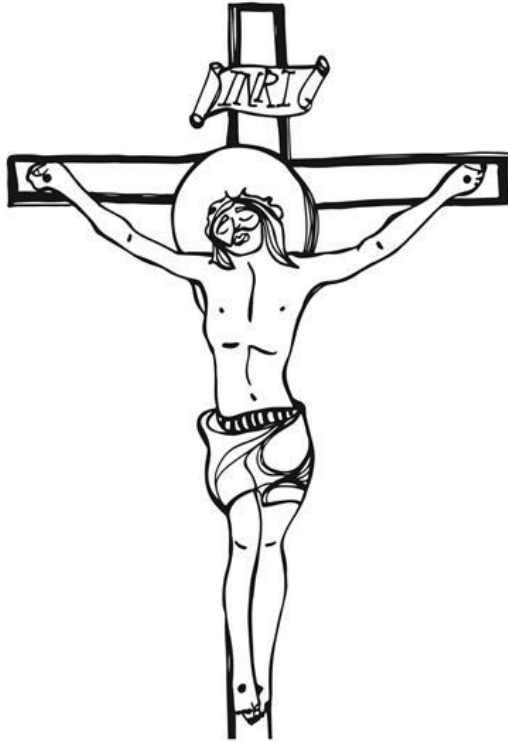


Energized by the Spirit!

Humbled by Christ's Grace!

Working for God's Glory!



# ZION'S UNION CHURCH MAXATAWNY

---

---

Evangelical Lutheran and United Church of Christ

329 Church Road

Kutztown, Pennsylvania

Rev. Melissa A. Burkhart, Pastor

*In this shared (UCC & Lutheran) liturgy, congregational responses are printed in “bold” type and the hymns can be found in the **RED** hymnal.*

**REFLECTION**

*Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king’s title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the “one like a human being” (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel’s vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.*

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**PRELUDES**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Bell Choir

Acolytes

arr. Dennis

arr. Larson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor

**The Liturgy Part I: GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as a people of God.*

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Grace and peace to you from the One who is, who always was,  
**and who is still to come — the Alpha and Omega — the beginning and the end.**

**This is our God—**

the One who loves us, and who gave himself for us;  
who gathers us together in this place, and bids us seek his face.

**Let’s worship God together!**

**OPENING SONG**

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

# 4

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God,

**Give us spiritual insight and understanding, so that we would be able to see things from your point of view. May our words and actions bring credit to Your name and joy to Your heart; may all that we do bear fruit for Your kingdom, and may we come to know and love You more each day. Strengthen**

**us with Your power so that we would be able to joyfully endure whatever comes our way, and give thanks to You even in the midst of pain and suffering. Thank You for rescuing us from the power of darkness, and bringing us into the glorious light of Your kingdom. All praise to Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whom we have found redemption and forgiveness. Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess we have given idols power over us, the idols of power and wealth, fame and security. We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world and have forgotten our kindred in Christ. We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth, and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us. Forgive us. Call us into Your reign, to declare You the One who has power over us because Your power is love. Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE

Jesus came to us not to reign as a king over us, but to serve us, and to show us the way of God is the way of love. Jesus said the first would be last and the last would be first. Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another, and that the most important commandment was to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the way of our Sovereign. Go, knowing you are forgiven, and love and serve one another, especially our neighbors in need, as Christ serves us.

**Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

Let us share together the peace of Christ, encouraging one another in love and goodness.

*The pastor and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Peace be with you. Response: And also with you.*

*All may be seated.*

### **The Liturgy Part II: WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, prayer, and song.*

FIRST READING: Revelation 1:4b-8.

A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Revelation.

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

<sup>4b</sup> Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to

come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

*After the reading:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

THE PSALM FOR TODAY IS PSALM 93 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

<sup>2</sup> **Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.**

<sup>3</sup> The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup> **Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.**

<sup>5</sup> Your testimonies are very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and forevermore.

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel for Christ the King Sunday is taken from the Gospel of John, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

<sup>33</sup> Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

*After the reading:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

*All may be seated.*

BLESSING OF THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES  
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mandy Graff

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

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.**

**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,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*All may be seated.*

SONG

*"Jesus Shall Reign Where e'er the Sun"*

# 371

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The God Who Reigns)

**I believe in God,  
the God,  
the *only* God,  
who created everything  
and reigns as King  
over earth, sky, and water,  
Sovereign and Holy,  
and yet revealing Himself  
in the intimacy of the name  
“Father”.**

*He reigns over the nations;*

*He is seated on his holy throne. (Psalm 47:8)*

**And I believe in Jesus Christ,  
the *Son*,  
the *only-begotten* Son  
whose reign began  
in the weakness of a manger-bed,  
conceived by the Spirit  
and born of a virgin,  
who reigned  
even while nailed to a cross of wood;  
who died and rose again, ascended and will come again.**

*He will reign forever;*

*and his kingdom will never end. (Luke 1:33)*

**And I believe in the Spirit,  
the *Holy* Spirit,  
the *Spirit of God*  
who as God Himself  
brings the presence of God  
and extends the reign of God  
in every believer and throughout the world,  
whoever directs hearts  
to our Lord and Savior,  
*so that grace might reign ...  
to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21)***

OFFERING *All may be seated.*  
CHOIR ANTHEM *The Offering is received.*  
"Rejoice, the Lord is King" arr. Raney  
Choir, Handbells, Piano, and Organ  
*Please rise in body or spirit.*

OFFERING SONG  
*As the gifts are presented, the following is sung by all.*  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise God all creatures here below;**  
**Praise him above you heavenly host;**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER  
In this world: **kingdom living.**  
In our mouths: **kingdom praises.**  
In our hearts: **kingdom goals.**  
In our hands: **kingdom gifts.**  
**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven! Amen.**  
*All may be seated.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **The Liturgy Part III: SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission into the world.*

BENEDICTION  
Go in peace, encouraging one another in love,  
and looking with hope for the kingdom of God.  
**Amen.**

SONG "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" (vs.1,3,5,6) # 7  
EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Acolytes  
POSTLUDE "Postlude on Coronation" Payne

~ written by Rev. Mindi and posted on the *Rev-o-lution* blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org>  
~ Copyright © 2009 Rick Lindholtz on his blog on the tracks. <http://rlindholtz.blogspot.com/2009/09/creed-god-who-reigns.html>  
~ written by Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in Worship. <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>  
~ written by Rev. Tina Kemp and posted on the Church of Scotland's Weekly Worship website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>  
~ posted on Literature & Liturgy. <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>  
From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26474.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

---

Sunday School 9:00  
Rev. Melissa A. Burkhart  
Mr. Steven Schucker  
Nancy Fulton and Kim Miller  
Mike Weidman  
Lisa Krause  
Kyle and Judy Koller  
Quintin Zoccola and Lila Berger

---

Worship 10:15  
Pastor  
Organist/Choir Director  
Greeters  
Shepherd  
Reader  
Bulletins and Offering  
Acolytes

---

**MISSION STATEMENT** – In keeping with the life and teaching of Christ Jesus, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God’s image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** – We joyfully welcome all persons visiting this day. Please take time to fill out a visitor’s card (found in the pew racks) and place it in the plate during the offering, and please also sign our guest register in the hallway when you leave. We pray that you will find your worship experience spiritually fulfilling and that you will join us again.

Here at Zion’s, extending our extravagant welcome includes inviting those interested in becoming a member of Zion’s Union to please see our Board President, Greg Haas, or Pastor Melissa Burkhart for more information.

**SITTING/STANDING** – Zion’s Union Church is committed to welcoming folks of all ages and stages. We understand that not everyone has the same abilities with movement, and we strive to create an environment where everyone feels valued and integral in this faithful community. There are times when our traditions request us to stand and other times when particular parts of the service require additional congregational involvement, causing us to rise as we are able. When invited to rise in body or spirit, please follow what is most comfortable for you.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** – Large print bulletins are available in the rear of the church.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in celebration of Arden’s upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> birthday from Ted, Jen, and Archer Scaffidi **AND** in celebration of being thankful for everything by Kim, Barry, and Lee Miller.

**BULLETINS** are given to the glory of God by Janet Geiger **AND** in memory of George and Larry Isamoyer from Irene.

**FLOWER/BULLETIN SPONSORS NEEDED** – 2 Bulletin sponsors are needed for Thanksgiving Eve, November 27<sup>th</sup>. 1 Flower sponsor and 2 Bulletin sponsors are needed for December 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1 Bulletin sponsor is needed for December 24<sup>th</sup>.



**TODAY AT ZION'S:**

- Last day to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve. See form below.
- Thank you to the Bell Choir for the special music this morning.
- Thank you to Mandy Graff for doing the Children’s Message this morning.
- Baskets are available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any monetary donations for Bethany Children’s Home Brighter Future Fund to purchase items for the residents for Christmas. Baskets will also be available **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM** – Our “Simply Giving” direct deposit program is available on a monthly or semi-monthly schedule and automatic transfers can be made to Current Expenses or Benevolence. Forms to join this initiative are on the Bulletin Board upstairs. Any new forms or changes for 2025 need to be submitted by mid-December to Peggy Morgan so they can go in effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Enrollment in this program can be done at any time throughout the year.

**THIS WEEK AT ZION'S:**

- **Sunday - Monday** – Operation Christmas Child boxes drop-off at Zion’s.
- **Monday** – Sr. Fellowship Group at 12:00 P.M. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Games provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.
- **Tuesday** – Church Board meeting at 6:30 P.M.
- **Wednesday** – Mid-Week Reflections at 11:00 A.M.
- **Wednesday** – Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 P.M. The service will prepare our hearts to give thanks to Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow.



**POINSETTIAS** – We will be decorating our church with poinsettias for Christmas. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. A tear off sign-up sheet is below. Please put the tear-off sheet and your check or money in an envelope marked “Poinsettias” and place it in the offering plate or give to Karen Warmkessel. Any checks should be made out to “Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny”. **DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS TODAY.**



**POINSETTIA SIGN-UP**

NAME .....

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS: RED..... WHITE .....

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (circle one) .....

.....

The family of Donald Mertz would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for the kind words, cards, and prayers during his illness and passing. Your love and support have been a great comfort to us during this difficult time. We would like also to extend a special thank you to Pastor Melissa for her compassionate visits and unwavering support over the past four months. Her care and guidance have been a true blessing to our family.

With sincere appreciation,  
 Kay, Melissa, & Elizabeth

**WORSHIP HELPERS FOR DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>:**

Sharon Leiby and Carol Leiby	Greeters
Nate Haas	Shepherd
Nancy Fulton	Reader
LaRee Fegely and Carol Leiby	Bulletin and Offering
Sharon Leiby, Kevin Fegely, Greg Haas, Traci Gehringer, Lori Arndt	Communion Ushers
Penelope Zoccola and Andrew Schucker	Acolytes and Offering

**NEXT SUNDAY AT ZIONS:**

- Youth Choir practice at 8:45 A.M.
- First Sunday of Advent and Holy Communion.
- Baskets will also be available **December 1<sup>st</sup>** in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any monetary donations for Bethany Children’s Home Brighter Future Fund to purchase items for the residents for Christmas.
- Please join us for our Advent Social. The meal will be served by the Youth Group at 6:15 P.M. with a program starting at 7:00 P.M. The program will be presented by the Youth Members and WIZ Ladies. It's a fun evening. There is a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board if you're planning to enjoy the meal with us. All ages welcome. Youth members should plan to be at the church no later than 4:30 P.M.



**YOUTH GROUP NUT SALE** – Zion's Youth Group is selling 1 lb. bags of Peanuts (salted and unsalted), Cashews, Mixed Nuts, and Dried Fruit. Orders will be taken after the service on **December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>**. **Pick-up of the nuts will be December 15<sup>th</sup> and the following Sundays.** Extra order forms, which are available for any other people who wish to take orders, must be turned in by **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Packing of the nuts will be **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.** To make things easier, all payments should be made at time of pick-up.



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** – Practice for the Sunday School Christmas Program will be **December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School.** The Program is **December 15<sup>th</sup> during the Church Service.**

**CHURCH BOARD** – The Church Board needs 2 members to fill open positions on the Church Board for next year to be nominated on December 8<sup>th</sup>. See Greg Haas if you are interested.

**PLASTIC BAG GROUP** – The Plastic Bag group will meet **December 4<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. to weave plastic bags into mats. Contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 or Carol Leiby at 484-695-8318 for more information.

**REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE** – Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service will be held **December 1<sup>st</sup>** at 3:00 P.M. at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. All are welcome at this no-shush worship service that enriches the lives of all people, especially the differently-abled, their caregivers, families, and friends. The theme is *I Hear You*. The presiding facilitator is Keith Wuchter. Parking is available in the lot behind the church.

**BIBLE STUDY** – First Monday Bible Study will be held **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

**ANGEL TREE PROJECT** – Sunday School is having their Angel Tree Project. A table is in the Gathering Area where you may take a name and buy a gift for that person. **Please remember to sign which Angel Tree card you took. Gifts are to be returned unwrapped, but can be placed in a box or gift bag by December 8<sup>th</sup>.**



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – Our annual Congregational Meeting to elect Board Members and to approve the annual operating budget will be held **December 8<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the worship service. Please consider attending this important meeting.

**LIVE NATIVITY** – Zion's Outdoor Live Nativity will be held **December 14<sup>th</sup>** (rain/snow date December 21<sup>st</sup>). Shows will be held every half hour from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. (last show at 7:00 P.M.). Volunteers are needed (sign-up sheet on the bulletin board): actors (no speaking parts) to reenact the Christmas Story, help with refreshments, parking cars, and setting up/tearing down outdoor structures. See Sue Haas with any questions.



**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES** – Copies of the new Membership Directory are available in the Gathering Area. Pick one up for yourself, family, or others that may not come to worship services. They may also be picked up at the church during the week.

**KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CONCERT** – Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. The musical selections include *This Christmas; Go, Tell It on the Mountain; Nutcracker Jingles; Tundra; and Winter Lullaby*. The concert will once again conclude with the *Hallelujah Chorus*, from Händel's *Messiah*, in which the audience is invited to join the choir. A free-will offering will be taken. Everyone is invited to join the choir for a simple reception of Christmas cookies and beverages following the performance.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** *We ask God's blessings upon those who are ill, recovering from surgery, homebound, or have asked for our prayers:*

Elaine Heffner, Loretta Flicker, David Herber, Cooper Kellum, Tracey Lutz, Bonnie Haas, Bill & Karen Howard, Irene Isamoyer, Jamey Webb, Liz Jones, Julia Mohn, Owen Shorette, Walter & Doris Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Randy Warmkessel, Donna VanDeCar, David Grim, John Laird, Jeanne, Aiden, Brooke, Emory, Bev, Eric, Jenni Juntunen, James Ely, Mason, Jamie Albanese, Alexis, Deb P., Beth S., Jim, Chris Pinkerton, Laurel Rudy, Grayson Rudy, Livvy Rudy, Sherry S., Jeremy Crum, Chad, Chris, Laura G., Keith Egley, Leila, Vera, Bruce Fritzinger, Sherri Gehringer, Ian Miller, Ely, Rosemary LaFratte, Paige Sechler, Joanne Pauley, Owen Lamendola, Sarah Johnson, Chris Szarko, Victoria Slotter, Regan Zimmerman, Karen Ames, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Rayann Roth, Valerie, Lorraine Miller, Christopher Mercardo, Elia, Christy Ryan, Michele Rodriguez, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Mary, Betsy, family of Margaret Apostolos-Peters.

**If any names can be removed from the list, please notify the church office.**

*Other:* Video Crew.

*Churches:* Zion's Union Church Maxatawny (Kutztown), Trinty Lutheran Church (Kutztown), Epler's United Church of Christ (Leesport), Bern Lutheran Church (Bern Township).

If you know of other persons in need of prayer and you wish to have a name included in next week's bulletin, please call the church office or leave a message on the answering machine. If you want a name included on Zion's Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.

---

Pastor Melissa's Phone Number	1-717-951-3016
Pastor Melissa's E-Mail Address	<a href="mailto:pastormburkhart@gmail.com">pastormburkhart@gmail.com</a>
Pastor Melissa's Office Hours	M, Th 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.; T, W 12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Zion's E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:zionsunion@verizon.net">zionsunion@verizon.net</a>
Zion's Web Site	<a href="http://www.zionsunion.org">www.zionsunion.org</a>
Church Phone Number	610-683-7485
Church Office Hours	M, W, F 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

---

### November 17, 2024 RECORD:      School 28      Church 90

FEDERATED	<i>Given</i>	<i>Needed Weekly</i>	BENEVOLENCE	<i>Given</i>	<i>Needed Weekly</i>
Current Total	\$ 4,648.00	\$ 4,728.00	Benevolence Total	\$ 86.00	\$385.00
Envelopes	\$ 4,635.00		Envelopes	\$ 86.00	
Loose Plate	\$ 13.00				

---

**PLEASE REMEMBER – When leaving the building, air conditioning or heat must be turned off (except in the offices), ALL interior doors must be closed (except doors in basement), lights MUST be turned off, and the front door MUST be locked.**

**INFORMATION NEEDED – All information for the weekly bulletin is needed in the church office NO LATER THAN 9:00 A.M. MONDAY MORNING.**