

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

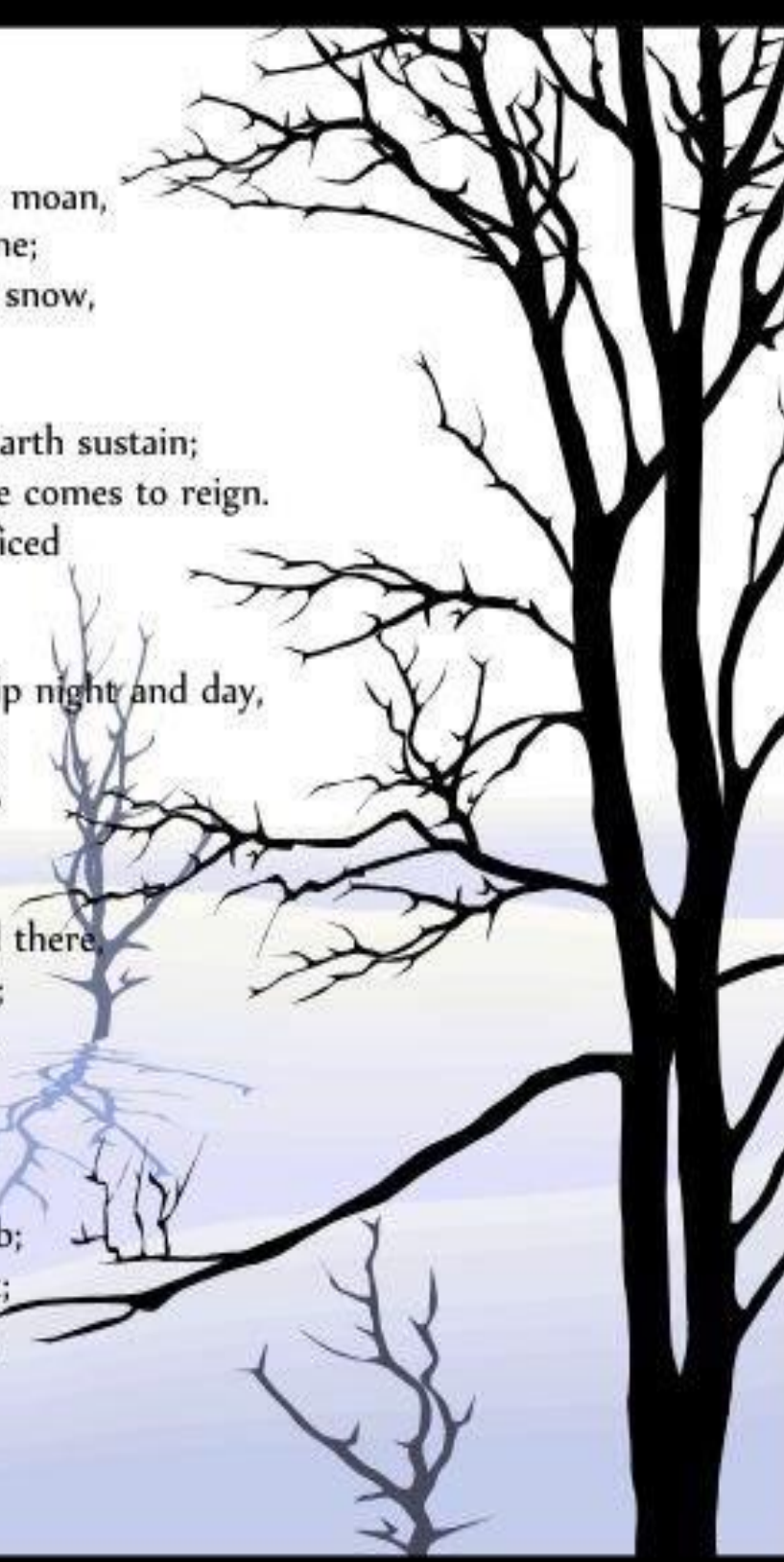
Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

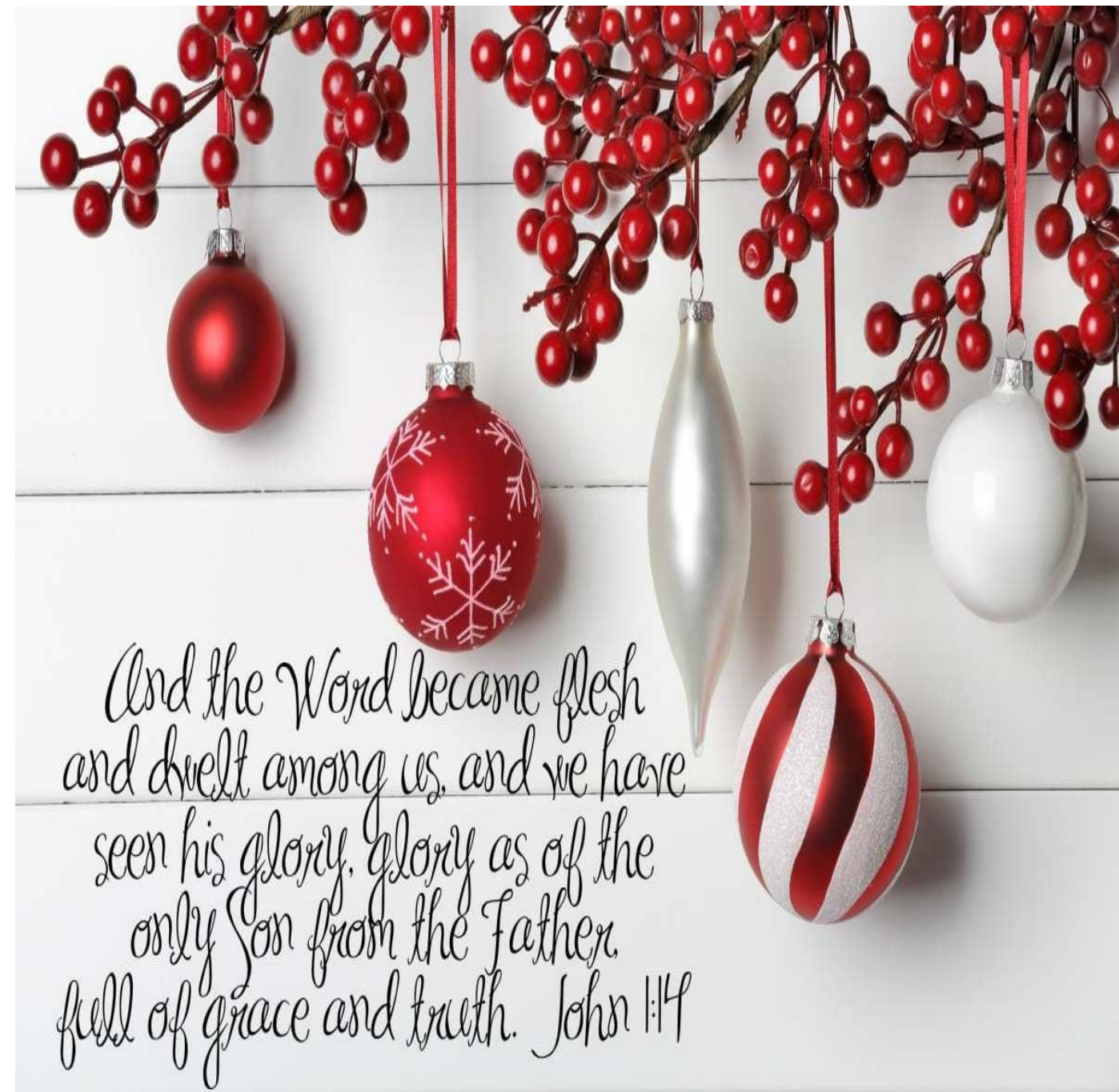
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Christina Rossetti



Joyful Noiz

December 2023 Newsletter



*And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us, and we have
seen his glory, glory as of the
only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

Zion United Church of Christ

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No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

www.zionuccsteubenville.com

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Bill Bertram, Marlene Rhueff, Steve Panyi, Doug Lewis, Judy Neiderhiser (John Diekmann's sister-in-law), Toots Ross, Shirley Valuska

➤If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

PASTOR COY

If you would like to meet with Pastor Coy, please make an appointment with the church office at **740-282-1793**. If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy directly, his cell number is **330-301-0551**.

NOW LIVESTREAMING!

We're now livestreaming our church services on you tube. Check us out! Zion UCC Steubenville <https://youtube.com/@zionucc6794?si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>

CHRISTMAS EVE

This year Christmas Eve falls on Sunday. We will have service at our regular time of 11AM. **We will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.**

This Christmas,

Mend a quarrel * Seek out a forgotten friend * Dismiss suspicion
and replace it with trust * Write a letter * Give a soft answer *
Encourage youth * Manifest your loyalty in word and deed * Keep
a promise * Forgo a grudge * Forgive an enemy * Apologize *
Try to understand * Examine your demands on others * Think
first of someone else * Be kind * Be gentle * Laugh a little more
* Express your gratitude * Welcome a stranger * Gladden the
heart of a child * Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the
earth * Speak your love and then speak it again.

~Howard W. Hunter~

www.feastontheword.com

Pastor's Pen

The Beauty of Advent

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. (John 3:16)

We are in the month of December; people everywhere are celebrating the season of Advent. Contrary to what most people believe, it doesn't wholly refer to Christmas, but it still has deep Biblical meaning in God's love for His people.

A German Lutheran minister made the first known wreath in 1839. He made the wreath from the wheel of an old cart and decorated it with twenty red candles and four white candles. The minister lit the red candles progressively on the weekdays and he lit a new white candle on each successive Sunday. Eventually, people stopped making wreaths from wheels and used evergreen branches instead to symbolize everlasting life. They remained round to symbolize God's eternal love for us. Some wreaths include red holly and berries to symbolize Jesus' death on the cross on our behalf, as well as pinecones which indicate new life and Jesus' victory over death through His resurrection. It is a beautiful act of worship as we remember who Jesus is, what He has done for us, and the promise of what He is still going to do.

The birth of Christ was meant to change the world. A world that for the most part thought, and still thinks it is fine without Him. God sent His Son so we could have a visible divine human to follow. Someone we could touch, see, and hear. But it takes more than seeing to believe. You need to Believe to see the change that can happen. So, look around the world, your streets, and in cars as they zoom by you. How is it going so far? We still change His rules so we can live our lives the way we want. I am sure He is not surprised but I think He must be sad. How long does He have to wait for us to act like His gift to the world has made any change at all.

Why don't we all start this Christmas to slow down. Gather with your family, your church family, and light a candle, and read from the Scriptures in honor of the Lord. It might just surprise you how much more meaningful Christmas and Christ Himself will mean to you this year.

Merry Christmas,
Rev. Coy, Joyce and Alan