

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a spiral effect. A large red rectangle is centered on the page, containing the title and author information. The bottom edge of the red rectangle has a downward-pointing arrowhead.

# Advent Prayer Spiral

Jenn Tabor Osterfeld

# Advent Prayer Spiral

- Field of Grace, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Bayard Road, Lothian, MD
- Service Date: Sunday, December 6, 2020, 5:00pm
- Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Service
- Spiral available from December 6 through Epiphany Sunday



## Scripture Luke 1:5-17

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, **the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.** <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for **your prayer has been heard.** Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready **a people prepared for the Lord.**”

# Proposal

The Advent Prayer Spiral is to offer a visual and active prayer station opportunity for community participation during the season of Advent. The prayer spiral will be introduced and offered as part of the Tree Lighting and Carol Sing worship service on Sunday, December 6, 2020 and will be available throughout the season of Advent through Epiphany Sunday.

The prayer spiral will encompass a 100 ft. by 100 ft. space on the Field of Grace. It will be located in the center of the field to have central access from any of the prayer stations that surround the perimeter of the Field of Grace.

The prayer spiral will operate like a labyrinth; participants will be invited to take a candle and slowly walk into the spiral in prayer centering oneself in Christ as they reach the log with a cross in the center of the spiral. After reaching the center, one will pray themselves walking out of the spiral to return to the world centered in Christ.

Participants will be invited to place a candle where one feels called as an physical and symbolic offering of prayer. Battery powered candles are being used for safety.

Invitations will be made to other local churches and community organizations to offer participation. Participants will be asked to maintain social distance and wear masks for COVID safety.

# Materials List

- Evergreen Branches (local Tree Farm donations)
- Battery Powered Votive Candles (approx. 100) (Amazon – 24 pack \$17.99)
- Landscape Staples (200) (Amazon \$22.99)
- Large Log (cut from woods on property)
- Wooden Cross
- Industrial Lights (church owned)
- Spot Lights to illuminate spiral throughout the season (church owned)
- Volunteers:
  - 2-3 volunteers to set up the spiral over a 2-3 hour period of time
  - Regular maintenance checks by volunteers to ensure integrity of structure and candles are lit and supplied

# Field of Grace

- Five acre Field on the corner of Route 408 and Bayard Road at the circle in Lothian, MD
- The second picture is taken from the Bayard Road entrance at the top of the Field of Grace
- Spiral will be placed at the center of the field to provide central access from any of the eight prayer stations that are around the perimeter of the field, which include Christmas scriptures for meditation.



# Advent Prayer Spiral



# Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Bulletin



*Mount Zion United Methodist Church  
Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Service  
5:00pm December 6, 2020*

122 Bayard Road, Lothian, Maryland 20711444  
Office Phone 410-867-4035  
Email: [mz@mzumc.com](mailto:mz@mzumc.com) & Web Page: [www.mzumc.com](http://www.mzumc.com)

Welcome

## Gathering

Opening Prayer

**Gracious Lord, we come to celebrate your birth, to recognize the gift of Christmas. We come to receive your great light, to dispel the darkness within us, to show us the way to life. Let us worship you in spirit and truth as we gather in love and safety outside in your creation to declare that God is with us, so that your love and peace may be spread within our hearts and to all the world. To the glory of God, the Father, with the power of the Holy Spirit, in celebration of Jesus the Son, Amen.**

Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**#230**

Hymn

*What Child Is This?*

**#219**

Gospel Lesson

Communion Liturgy

*Communion*

**Luke 2:4-11**

Hymn

*Joy to the World*

**#246**

Closing Hymn

**Tree Lighting**

*Silent Night*

**#239**

Benediction

Sending Forth



continued

# Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Bulletin

## Advent Prayer Spiral

**This season, in a time that looks different from many others, we invite you to participate in the Advent Prayer Spiral. Take a candle and walk the spiral prayerfully. Take your time and share with God all that is on your heart. Pray yourself from the world, letting go of the pain and suffering of the world, to the center where you find a cross as the symbol that Jesus is the center of your life. As you return take Jesus, as your center, back out with you into the world. When you feel called, light your candle and place it among the evergreen branches that make the spiral. The spiral will remain until Epiphany, so come as many times as you like, invite friends and the community to participate.**

**The spiral is intended for one person at a time. We ask that you be aware of and respect social distancing. Allow each person to take as much time as needed in the spiral for prayer and discernment.**

## Mt. Zion Ministries and Events

### BLUE CHRISTMAS

Take an evening to acknowledge how the holidays may be hard this year. There has been a lot of loss in 2020 and the holidays may look different than in other years. Take the time to mourn the loss and thank God for the blessings on December 13, 2020 at 6:30pm.

### YOUTH GROUP SUNDAYS

Mt. Zion wants to help your kids grow in relationship with Jesus and each other. Middle & High School students gather via Zoom for Bible Study every Sunday afternoon from 4-4:45pm. For more info email Jenn at [Jenn@mzumc.com](mailto:Jenn@mzumc.com).

### BUILDING ON THE ROCK

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6pm on FaceBook for a fun time of Lego building and learning from God's Word.

### EVENING SONG

Join us on Tuesday nights at 7pm via Zoom for a time of music, praise, and devotion. For more information email Allison at [allison@mzumc.com](mailto:allison@mzumc.com).

### SUNDAY SERMONS

New here and want to watch some of our past sermons? Or maybe you just missed a few? Go to [mzumc.com](http://mzumc.com) and click on "messages" at the top of the homepage to catch up on what you missed!

### CONNECT ONLINE

Want to keep in the loop with what's going on at Mt. Zion? Like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram or sign up for our newsletter. Just go to [mzumc.com](http://mzumc.com) and click on "more" at the top of the homepage.

### GIVING

To set up a recurring gift or make a one-time gift, you can do one of the following. Download the Pushpay app or text MZUMC to 77977. You can also go to [mzumc.com](http://mzumc.com) and click on the giving link on the homepage.

Join us for worship on Sundays in-person and livestream Sunday at 9:00am.