

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

4 P.M. Worship December 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

God of mangers and palaces, of shepherds and kings, reveal yourself to us here in the mystery and magic of the season. Free us to see the signs of your promise and hear the whispers of good news. May we join the songs of joy that proclaim to the world your presence among us. We would glorify and praise you in ways that might convince the world of your grace and transform us all according to your love. Amen.

Prelude

"African Angel Carol"

Arr. Curry

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand.)*

*Carol:	"O Come All Ye Faithful"	#148 vs 1&2
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the King of angels:	Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;	
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!	O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!	

*Call to Worship

One: Tuck the child in the manger bed. Jesus is born, let Christmas begin.

All: **No cradle, just a manger where cows and sheep are fed. No blanket, just the hay there, and no pillow for his head.**

One: No robe, no sleepers, no pajamas, just swaddling cloths to wear. No hospital, no nurses, nor warm home, but love and care were there.

All: **Angels for his choir, shepherds for his friends, and kings who came to worship as their long journey ends.**

One: Mary and Joseph there, too, to care for that special one.

All: **And so we sing Alleluia and join the angel choirs,**

One: For Jesus was born in a manger on that first Christmas morn.

All: **Tuck the child in the manger bed. Jesus is born, let Christmas begin!**

*Carol:	<i>"Away in a Manger"</i>	#147
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.		

*** Opening Prayer (*In Unison*)**

Holy God, come into this holy night with stars to light our way to the cradle of peace. Come with angels to sing us to a deep joy. Come to this moment and open our hearts so we may hear the familiar story new and fresh. Surprise us and remind us that the child in the manger is Immanuel -- God with us, now and always. Amen.

*Carol:	<i>"Angels We Have Heard on High"</i>	#155 v1
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!		

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT

The Jones Family

Hymn	<i>"One Candle is Lit"</i>	#128
Come surely Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, A candle for hope and for peace burning bright, A candle for love and for joy bright with light. One candle is lit for the Christ born this night.		

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

Carol:	<i>“What Child Is This”</i>	#162 v1& 2
What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe, the son of Mary.		Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring him laud the babe, the son of Mary.

Carol:	<i>"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"</i>	#149 verse 1
Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.		

Carol:	<i>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</i>	#144 verses 1 and 2
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.	For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth. Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth;	

Message for All Ages

*Carol:	<i>“Joy to the World!”</i>	#143
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 world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	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.	

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*Carol:	"Silent Night"	#145
Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace. Silent night, holy night. shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born!	Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace: Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King; Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.	

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Advent Candle: **The Jones Family**
Usher Team: **Brian Spahr**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God in ...

In Memory of my husband, David Golland, given by Barbara Golland.
In Honor of my family, Sharon, Erick, Ava & Drew Bauman given by Barbara Golland.
In Memory of Frank and Wilma Stortz given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.
In Memory of George and Florence Camp given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.
In Celebration of the season given by Helen Stortz and Richard Camp.
In Memory of George Tindira given by Carol, John & Matt Tindira.
In Memory of Roy and Irene Aldrich given by Lee and Phil Difani.
In Memory of Phil Difani, Sr. given by Lee and Phil Difani.
In Memory of Leonard J. and Laverne Haas given by Charles and Marjorie Neubert.
In Honor of our children Diana and Jason Flower and Andrea and Chris Vinyard
given by Carolyn and Byron Golfin.
In Memory of Raymond and Ruth Sontag given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.
In Memory of George and Lynn Hudson given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.
In Memory of our relatives and church members and many friends
taken into God's care given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hart given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Spahr given by Monica Hart & Brian Spahr.
In Memory of my loving husband Harold given by Phyllis Freiberger.
In Celebration of my wonderful family given by Phyllis Freiberger.
In Honor of Rev Carl and Maryilyn Norton given by Phyllis Freiberger.
In Honor of our family given by Ken & Jackie Ruff.
In Celebration of a Merry Christmas given by The Pisoni Family.
With thanks to Pastor Lisa given by The Pisoni Family.
In Honor of my parents, Wesley & Arland Stemme given by Warren Stemme.
In Honor of my sons, Ryan & Kyle Stemme given by Warren Stemme.
In Celebration of the congregation of St. John's UCC Chesterfield
given by Warren Stemme.
In Honor of our mothers Leitha Macalady & Angelina Amato
given by Charlie & Nora Amato.
In Memory of our fathers Francis Macalady Sr. & Jim Amato
given by Charlie & Nora Amato.
In Celebration of our family & friends given by Charlie, Nora & Anthony Amato.
In Memory of Dorothy and Roy Steiner given by Janis Boehm.
In Memory of Pearl and George Hill given by Janis Boehm.
In Celebration of our church family given by Janis Boehm.