

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

7 P.M. Worship Dec 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"Noel!"

arr. Hayes

*The Call to Worship

Tonight, old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The promise is fulfilled.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the world has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh, within us and among us now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Goodwill to all.

* Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#148

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:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all
glory in the highest; [Refrain]

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly? [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

Advent Candle

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

Hymn

"We Light the Advent Candles"

**We light the Advent candles
against the winter night,
to welcome our Lord Jesus
who is the world's True Light,
to welcome our Lord Jesus
who is the world's True Light.**

**Four candles burning brightly
announce that Christ has come,
prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room,
prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room.**

Gathering Prayer (*In Unison*)

God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us each and every day of our lives, Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."
¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Meher

Message

Hymn	<i>"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"</i>	#150
<p>Hark! the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"</p> <p>Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"</p>		<p>Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings, mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark, the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"</p>

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(In Unison)*

**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,
 and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

***Doxology** (*In Unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*In Unison*)

**With joy and thanksgiving, we present our offerings, rejoicing in the opportunity to share.
May your light shine on them and penetrate all the shadows that diminish life for any of
your children. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Invitation

Telling the Story

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, you have united us with Christ and all who have shared this feast. Give us courage to be your people, to show your justice, grace, mercy, peace, and love, and to be a part of your transformation of our world until the day when the baby whose birth we celebrate tonight comes again in peace and we sing your praise and glory forever. Amen.

Scripture John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth

Sharing the Light of Christ

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"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

"Joy to the World"

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Advent Candle: **The Nichols Family**
Liturgist: **Janice Ittner**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Soloist: **Meher Arora**

Announcements

We pray for
**Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Kevin Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener,
Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina and Gloria Vaclavik.**
Please let us know your prayer concerns.
If you have private prayer concerns please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke..

12/29/24 Service
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Phil Difani**
Special Music: **Chancel Choir**

01/05/25 Service
Liturgist: **Craig Bielke**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Helen Stortz**
Special Music: **Vocalist, Meher Arora**
Communion Service:
Donna Switzer & Helen Stortz

01/12/25 Service
Liturgist: **Helen Stortz**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Helen Stortz**
Special Music: **Flautist**



Join us on Sundays
9:00 a.m. - **Fellowship** in Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**
10:00 a.m. - **Worship**
In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

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Poinsettias Given to the Glory of God ...

In Celebration of the season given by Mel & Ruth Kohl.

In Celebration of Andrea & Chris Vinyard Family given by Carolyn & Byron Golfin.

In Celebration of blessings given by Laura & Brock Ayers.

In Celebration of Christmas given by Donna & Paul Switzer.

In Celebration of Diana & Jason Flower Family given by Carolyn & Byron Golfin.

In Celebration of holidays with family and friends given by Todd Armstrong.

In Celebration of members of St. John's congregation given by the Warren Stemme Family.

In Celebration of my family, the Baumans given by Barbara Golland.

In Celebration of our family and friends given by Charles, Nora & Anthony Amato.

In Celebration of Poppa & BGE given by Laura & Brock Ayers.

**In Celebration of the gift of life, wonderful family & friends
given by Rev Carleton & Marilyn Norton.**

In Celebration of the Gronefeld family given by the Warren Stemme Family.

In Celebration of the Stemme family given by the Warren Stemme Family.

In Honor of Angelina Amato & Leitha Macalady given by Charles, Nora & Anthony Amato.

In Honor of Betty Wagner given by Lynn Potts.

**In Honor of children, grandchildren & great grandchildren
given by Rev Carleton & Marilyn Norton.**

In Honor of Mike & Kathy Scherr "for all you do!" given by Lynn Potts.

In Honor of my family given by Janis Boehm.

In Honor of my wonderful family given by Phyllis Freiberger.

In Honor of our family given by Ken & Jackie Ruff.

In Memory of Barry W Maddox given by Mark Strothmann & Shari Maddox.

In Memory of Brenda & Joe Hart given by Monica & Brian Spahr.

In Memory of Daniel Switzer given by Donna & Paul Switzer.

In Memory of Dottie & Bernie Spahr given by Monica & Brian Spahr.

In Memory of Gene Clauson given by Jeanne Clauson.

In Memory of George & Lynn Hudson given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.

In Memory of George Tindira given by Carol, John & Matt.

In Memory of Harold Freiberger, my wonderful husband given by Phyllis Freiberger.

In Memory of Jim Amato & Francis Macalady Sr. given by Charles, Nora & Anthony Amato.

In Memory of Jim Pisoni Sr given by The Pisoni Family.

In Memory of Leonard & LaVerne Haas given by Charles & Marjorie Neubert.

In Memory of my husband David Golland given by Barbara Golland.

In Memory of My Parents, Charles ('Lindy') & June Ackerman given by Barb Ackerman.

**In Memory of parents, sister, brother-in-law, cousin & friends
given by Rev Carleton & Marilyn Norton.**

In Memory of Philip B Difani Sr given by Lee & Phil Difani.

In Memory of Raymond & Ruth Sontag given by Larry, Angie & Corryne Sontag.

In Memory of Roy & Irene Aldrich given by Lee & Phil Difani.

In Memory of Wesley, Arland and Jay Stemme given by the Warren Stemme Family.