

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship Dec 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

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

*The Call to Worship

The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.

This justice shall be for all of creation.

Peace shall be established in all the world.

Get ready! Prepare for God's peace to reign!

Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!

We give thanks to God for this time of healing and hope. AMEN.

* Hymn

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

#149

**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.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]**

**Sages, leave your contemplations
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
you have seen the natal star: [Refrain]**

**Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
here among us shall appear: [Refrain]**

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

We relight the candle of hope. Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

No Fuss, No Stress Christmas Pageant

By Theresa E Cho

Welcome

Part I: Mary and Joseph

"O Little Town of Bethlehem." #144 vs 1-2

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;

Part II: The Animals

"The Friendly Beasts"

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable of wood,
and the friendly beasts around him stood;
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

I said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
I carried his mother uphill and down;
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.
I said the donkey, shaggy and brown..

I said the sheep with curly horn,
I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
he wore my coat on Christmas morn,
I said the sheep with curly horn.

Thus, all the beasts who loved him well,
in the wood stable were glad to tell
Of the gifts they gave to Emmanuel.
Of the gifts they gave to Emmanuel.

Part III: Angels

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #150 vs 1-2

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!"

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!"

Part IV: Shepherds

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" #167 vs 1

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens,
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

Part V: Magi and Star
“We Three Kings” #172 vs 1-2

**We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Part VI: Conclusion
“Joy to the World” #143 vs1-2

**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.**

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 or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

***Doxology**

**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*)**

Emmanuel, hear our prayer! We bring these gifts before you to spread peace throughout our homes, our communities, and our world. On every street corner, beside rivers, lakes, oceans, at the top of your tallest mountains, and dwelling below the cliffs, your people are in need. Take these gifts to strengthen our church and bring relief to your beloved children. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

#677

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**

Please join us in fellowship hall after service for a small reception to celebrate the children's program. All are welcome.

Announcements

Please pick up the small information card at the back of church and use it to invite family and friends to our Christmas worship and fellowship events.

We pray for: **Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Andy Kissel, Anita Paz, Melanie Spangler and Carol Tindira.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

... Looking Ahead

11/24 – 12/8		ECC Butter Braid Fundraiser
Mon	12/8/25	10:00 AM
		Voices of Advent Study
Mon	12/8/25	1:00 PM
		Exec Council Mtg
Tue	12/9/25	10:00 AM
		Book Club <u>19 Minutes</u> Jodi Picoult
Fri	12/12/25	6:00 PM
		Christmas Caroling
Sun	12/14/25	11:00 AM
		Third Sunday of Advent
Mon	12/15/25	10:00 AM
		Voices of Advent Study
Mon	12/15/25	6:00 PM
		Council Meeting
Wed	12/17/25	8:00 AM
		Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	12/21/25	9:15 AM
		Loaves & Fishes
Sun	12/21/25	12:00 PM
		Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun	12/21/25	3:00 PM
		Longest Night Service
Mon	12/22/25	10:00 AM
		Voices of Advent Study
Wed	12/24/25	4 pm
		Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Wed	12/24/25	7 pm
		Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Wed	12/31/25	All day
		New Years Eve (office closed)

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

<https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

Global Ministries request that we pray with **Indonesia** this week

12/14/25 Service Liturgist: Jan Ittner Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Carol Tindira Special Music: Piano Duet	12/21/25 Service Liturgist: Laura Ayers Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Carol Tindira Special Music: Choir & Handbells	12/28/25 Service Liturgist: Todd Armstrong Usher Team: John Bartelt Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Carol Tindira Special Music: Flautist
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Join us on Sundays 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship with coffee and donuts 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School 10:00 a.m. – Worship In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual	15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017 (636) 532-0540 <i>stjohnsuccconlive@gmail.com</i> www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org
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ECC Butter Braid Fundraiser 	Amazon Book Wish List 	Offering 
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Online Worship:

We are livestreaming Sunday morning service. You'll can join us live or watch the YouTube later.

Facebook: Find the livestream here: 	YouTube: View the video here: 	Website: Find more Info here: 
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December 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Advent Blessing Box begins 11/30 	1  10 am	2	3 	4	5 Holiday Concert 	6 Santa at the Carousel 
7 advent 2 	8  10 am	9 Book Club 10 am 	10	11	12 Christmas Caroling 	13
14 advent 3	15  10 am	16	17 	18	19	20
21  3 pm Longest Night Service	22  10 am	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4 pm & 7 pm 	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27 
28	29	30	31 			Table & Women's Fellowship will start again in January