

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship December 4, 2022

*Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
Symbols of Christmas*

Prayer in Preparation

O God, this beautiful Advent stirs such hope in us. In this season we find hope and peace – all glimpses of the world to come. May our days be sacred and holy, filled with true love for mankind. Watch over us all, especially Dwayne, AJ, Shirley, Paul and Betty. As this season of expectant waiting continues, help us to drink in every moment, to behold the beauty and majesty, and to worship the King who was and is and is to come. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

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

Passing the Peace

May God fill you all with Peace

The Opening

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"
**Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God.**

#121

Prelude

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Bach Arr. Liebergen

*The Call to Worship

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch shall spring from roots.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor with righteousness around his waist.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place. With wisdom and might he'll lead the way.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

*Hymn

"Sing Your Praise"

tune #61 Royal Oak

[Refrain]

**Sing our praise to God today,
Whose glory fills the earth.
Celebrate God's righteous way,
That brings new life to birth.**

From Jesse's root emerges
One who in God delights.
The light of love converges
On all whom God invites.

Refrain

Come wondrous God among us,
Deliverance to proclaim
Then, faithful and courageous,
May we make love our aim.

Refrain.

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

You have wakened us from sleep and led us to this place, wondrous God. Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word. Surely you have blessed us. You have drawn us together and bound us firmly to one another. We give you thanks for giving us an identity as relatives and friends through Jesus Christ. In this season we remember your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. You make yourself known to us again and again. May we know you now! Amen.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Decoration of the Sanctuary

***Hymn**

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called, Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.**

#134

LIGHT OF LIGHT

Choir sings:

Light of Light we humbly pray: shine in our hearts today.
Dispel the gloom and dark of light; fill all the world with love and light.

Everyone sings:

**Voices cry out from a world in grief:
Prayer of those who seek relief.
End their darkness, hear their call
For peace on earth, good will for all.**

Responsive Litany

One: Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.
All: Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.
One: Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.
All: Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.
One: Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.
All: Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive..
One: Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.
All: Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

Candle Lighting

Everyone sings:

**Voices cry out from a world in grief; prayers of those who seek relief.
End their darkness; hear their call for peace on earth, goodwill for all.
Peace on earth, goodwill for all.**

Prayer: (In Unison)

God of light, we thank you for the sacrifice you made in sending your Son, and we pray today that you will fill us with a deep sense of peace. Lighten our anxious moments. Help us keep our minds focused on your love and take away our feelings of hopelessness and despair. May we remember that we are your instruments of peace and help us to spread that peace to the world around us. Amen.

**The Greens
The Wreaths**

***Hymn**

"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

#138 verses 1 & 3

**Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.**

The Word: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

One: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

"Cantata No. 156"

Bach

The Poinsettias

* Hymn:

"All Earth is Waiting" (Toda la Tierra)

#139 verses 1 and 3

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

The Christmas Tree

Ornaments and Chrismons

The Nativity scene

* Hymn:

"Like a Child"

#133 verses 1 and 3

like a child
love would send
to reveal
and to mend,
like a child
and a friend,
Jesus comes
like a child
we may find
claiming heart
soul and mind,
like a child
strong and kind,
Jesus comes

like a child
born to pray
and to show
us the way,
like a child
here to stay,
Jesus comes
like a child
we receive
all that love
can conceive,
like a child
we believe
Jesus comes

The Gifts of Christmas

* Hymn:

"Take My Gifts"

#381 verses 1 and 3

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take whatever I can offer--
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.

Scripture: **Philippians 1:3-11**

The People

HOLY COMMUNION IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

ONE: Dear Jesus of Advent, you remain a sacred mystery to us.

ALL: **You have brought Good News for all the people and we will not be afraid, for you are here.**

ONE: We are hungry for your love which surpasses all our understanding; we are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry.

ALL: **In this meal nourish our souls, feed our minds, quench our deepest longings and forgive our transgressions, that we may glorify you every day of our lives. Amen.**

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.

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Bread and Cup

Sharing of the Meal

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (*In Unison*)**

Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, a light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Thank you for recharging our batteries and reviving your ambient glow within us. You are the power source that never gives out - eternally renewable and sustainable. Thank you God. Thank you Christ. Thank you Spirit. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn:**

"Lift up your heads, O mighty gates"

#129

**Lift up your heads, O mighty gates:
behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here**

**Redeemer, come! We open wide
our hearts to you; here, Christ abide!
Let us your inner presence feel,
your grace and love in us reveal.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart:
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy**

**So come, our Sovereign; enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won,**

Benediction

Postlude

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Miller/Jackson arr. Holmes

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Advent Candle Lighting: **The Matthew Hart Family**
Liturgist: **Lynn Potts**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**
Song Leaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship: **Freiberger**
Lockup: **Janis Boehm**
Chancel Choir: **Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisoni, Helen Stortz, Evelyn Weber**

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Announcements

Poinsettias are being delivered **December 9th** and **volunteers** are needed to help set them up. Please call the office at 636.532.0540 if you can help on Friday any time **after 10:30 am.**

12/11/22 Service

Liturgist: **David Leech**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

12/18/22 Service

Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, Rev Dwyane Dollgener, Betty Gschwind, A.J. Switzer** and **Paul VanDriest** Please let us know your prayer concerns.

A Look Ahead

December		Christmas Fund (veterans of the cross) Drive
12/6/22	10 AM	Advent Bible Study in the community room
12/11/22		Third Sunday of Advent
12/11/22		Children's Program
12/13/22	10 AM	Advent Bible Study
12/15&16	10 AM	ECC Christmas Performances
12/18/22	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
12/18/22	10 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/18/22	10:30 AM	Christmas Fund (veterans of the cross) offering
12/20/22	10 AM	Advent Bible Study
12/24/22	4 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/24/22	7 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/25/22	10 AM	Christmas Day (virtual service).
12/27/22		Bunko Women's Fellowship
12/31/22		New Year's Eve
01/01/23	10 AM	New Years' Service with communion

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

Ushers and are **needed** for the 4 and 7 pm services on **Christmas Eve.**
Ushers **contact David Thomason** at 314-878-1340.

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Kenya** this week

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.)



St. John's United Church of Christ

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Worship Services

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