



**November 28, 2021**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**November 28, 2021**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

## **Meditation**

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is enough room for Jesus.”  
Neal A. Maxwell

## **Chimes**

## **Prelude**

*Andrew Johnson, Saxophone*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **✠ Opening Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins  
release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all  
the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts  
alone; by thine all sufficient merit; raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **Lifting up our Joys**

## **Passing of the Peace**

## **✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines even in the places where shadows touch our lives.**

Rejoice, then, you people, for Christ’s presence lives among us,

**And brings light to our world.**

## **✠ Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

## ✠ **Prayer of Confession** *(unison)*

Dear God, as we turn our attention to this season of preparation for the coming of the Christ child, help us to wholeheartedly open ourselves to your work in our lives. We confess that too often, we have focused on the tasks to be performed and less on your love to be received and shared with others. With our prayers and your help, this season of advent will be different.

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

## ✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness** *(read responsively)*

O God, we thank you for the assurance of your grace and forgiveness, for hearing our prayers and challenging us to take action to be more available to you. **Amen!**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Chris & Caitlin Brossman

Let us pray together the Advent Prayer.

**God of all hope, at the beginning of creation you made the light that scatters all darkness. May Christ, the true light, shine on us and free us from the power of sin and death. Fill us with hope as we welcome Jesus Christ; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Bible Readings**

*Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:33-37*

Judy Miller

## **Children's Message and Blanket Blessing**

Pastor Jeff

## **Anthem**

*Shine the Light of Your Love- Mark Patterson  
Memorial Anthem in memory of Gertrude Miller,  
Presented by Bill & Elaine Miller*

## **Pastor's Message**

*"Wake Up!"*

Pastor Jeff

## **Musical Response**

*Mary Did You Know?*

Mark Lowry

## ✠An Advent Creed (unison)

**We believe in one God, who is Creator, maker of all we see and all we don't see. Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ, God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human. He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, breath of God moving among us; who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!**

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## ✠Giving our Gifts to God

### ✠Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer *(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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us**

**from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen**

### ✠Closing Hymn

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

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.

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

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth.  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

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

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

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

## ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

## ✠ Chimes/Meditation

## Postlude

*Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"*

*arr. James Denton*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of  
God, in memory of loved ones,*

***Presented by Bob & Paulette Peters.***

***Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson***