



December 12, 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**

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Meditation

“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”
Simone Weil

Chimes

Prelude

Hallelujah- Light Has Come - arr. Melody Bober
Gale Sterner, percussion

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Be patient! Wait and Watch for the Lord is drawing near to us.

We have gathered here this day to hear the good news and to gather strength for the times to come.

Be at peace with one another.

Let love and wisdom prevail.

Open your hearts and souls to God's healing word.

Lord, touch our hearts. Teach us to patiently listen for your words of love.

Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We come before you, Mighty God, asking forgiveness and cleansing for our lives that are rough and unfinished. Cleanse us, purify us, give us your gentle love, your pure peace, and your shining hope. Let the offering of our lives be beautiful and unhindered. Let our hearts be steadfast and sure as we face the future, knowing that the future is yours and held in your kind and loving hands.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness (*read responsively*)

The Psalmist proclaims: "Blessed be the God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us." "Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more." **Thanks be to God!**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Olivia Pacovsky, Sophia Spolski, Pastor Jeff

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 joy as we welcome Jesus Christ; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Message in Music

“Immanuel - Born in Bethlehem. Our God is with us.”

Narrators - Nick & Amy Marrongelle

Come, Light of Hope - Page/Shafferman

Who Would Send a Baby? Mary Kay Beall

Does Bethlehem Know? - David Lantz

✠Hymn

Away in a Manger

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 in 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 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

✠ Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

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 newborn King"

Choir

Will We Know Him? Besig/Price

✠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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✠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

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ was born today.

Ox and ass before him bow,

and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Variations on "In Dulce Jubilo"

Theodore Beck



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God, In memory of
Squire, Kathryn and Jim, Clara and Raymond, Doris and
Danny, Judy, Mary and Mark, Jean and Dink, Mikie, Ronnie,
Grace, Bobbie.*

*Loved and never forgotten.
Presented by Barb Skelding*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson