



December 19, 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 19, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent

Meditation

“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.”
Janice Maeditere

Chimes

Prelude

Sweet Little Jesus Boy - Mark Hall

Bill Miller, tenor

Welcome and Announcements

✝ Opening Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above,
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Welcome this day to worship.

The light of this season has beckoned us forward.

Come and rejoice, for God's light is coming to us.

Praise be to God who pours light into our lives.

Open your hearts and spirits and receive the blessings of God.

May we always be ready to respond in joyful ways to God's love. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jeff

As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of God. So it is that when we gather to worship we must confess those places in which we need to grow. In preparation for the coming of the Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Alison & Chris Holler

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

Bible Readings

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45

Dr Bob Peters

Children's Message

Choir Anthem

Breath of Heaven – Arr. David Angerman

Pastor's Message

“Mary's Message to Us”

Hymn of Response

Mary Did You Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new. This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
has walked where angels trod, and when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the
face of God? Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping Child you're holding Is the great, the great I AM?
Oh, Mary, Mary, did you know?

✠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

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

✝ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✝ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

How Great Our Joy - German Melody



ALTAR FLOWERS

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in honor of their grandparents, and great
grandparents, both past and present,
Presented by Chris & Caitlin Brossman*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

