



December 5, 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 5, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent

Meditation

“How many observe Christ’s birthday! How few his precepts.”
Benjamin Franklin

Chimes

Prelude

All is Well - arr. Melody Bober

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still thru the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.
3. For lo! the days are hast’ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav’n and earth shall own

The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Lifting up our Joys

December Birthday Blessings

Passing of the Peace

✠ Call to Worship (Congregation reads bold print)

Welcome today to this time of preparation.

Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.

Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.

Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. Amen.

✠ Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✠ Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and fill us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Silent pause for reflection **Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace. In Christ's name we are forgiven! **Amen.**

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.

Children's Christmas Pageant

"For the Glory of the King"

Created by Susie Williams, Luke Gambill and David Ebensberger

Directors: Jamie Barton and Caitlin Brossman

Welcome the Newborn King

Scene 1

Angels We Have Heard on High

Scene 2

O Lamb of God with Away in a Manger

Scene 3

Emmanuel

Scene 4

For the Glory of the King

Participants:

Calmina & Demetri Kukta

Jacob Kunkle

Lola & Christian Machamer

Austin Marrongelle

Trena Murphy

Porter Sarnes

Molly, Macie, Ultan & Arlo Stone

✠ **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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

✠ **Invitation to the Table**

✠ **Communion Prayer**

May the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering.

We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at the table with Christ, our host. We worship you, O God, with all saints and angels from every time and place, gathering our hearts and voices to sing to the glory of your name.

✠ **Sanctus** (*sung*)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(The congregation may be seated as the Pastor continues)

Words of Institution

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Blessing of the Elements

Pastor Jeff

Dear Jesus of Advent, you remain a sacred mystery to us. You have brought Good News for all the people, and we will not be afraid, for you are here. We are hungry for your love which surpasses all our understanding; we are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry. 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.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Prepare your hearts for all things are ready.

Partaking of the Elements

Take and eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

†Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Send us out to wait and to work for the Kingdom. Make us people of hope, fanning the flames of redemption and resurrection in the world. Amen!

†Closing Hymn

Angels, We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

†Sending Forth and Final Blessing

†Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Improvisation on "God Rest Ye" - R. Myron



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God
In memory of loved ones,
Presented by the Marrongelle Family.*

Worship Leader: Pastor Jeff Johnson

