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All is Well

by Michael Barrett and David Angerman



December 15, 2024

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 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Meditation “The greatest gift you will ever receive will never be found under a Christmas tree. It is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart.” Anonymous

Chimes

Prelude *Here with Us*, Ally Murphy, solo

Welcome and Announcements

✝ **Opening Hymn #189** *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
You who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
See the great Desire of nations, you have seen the natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

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

Shout aloud and sing for joy O people of God.

Let us serve the Lord with gladness.

Let us come before his presence with song.

For the Holy One is in our midst.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord.

All: Let us exult his name together.

✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

✠ **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly into our lives and into our hearts. Renew us with your love. Help us bear fruit worthy of repentance. Where there is hatred, heal us with your love. Where there is discord, calm us with your peace. Where there is sin, cover us with your grace. Where there is despair, strengthen us with your hope. Baptize us with the fire of your Holy Spirit, that we may be refined and cleansed of our sins. Gather us into your midst, that we may be your people.

Silent pause for reflection

Amen.

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

It is written in Matthew 1:21 “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name, Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” In Christ’s name, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pete and Porter Sarnes

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.

Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

The Message in Music

“All Is Well”

by

The St John's United Church of Christ Choir
With Guests from Hamburg Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Narrators: Nick and Amy Marrongelle
Trena Murphy, Music Director

Prepare Ye the Way (with “Shout to the North”)

O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Eileen Rump, solo

Promises of Isaiah

Breath of Heaven

Barb Skelding, solo

Here I am to Worship (with “O Come, All Ye Faithful”)

One King

Mollie Stone, solo

Light of the Stable

All is Well

✠ **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

Offertory

What Child is This with Carol of the Bells

Tracey Holler, flute

✠ **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 #218

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

✠ Three-fold Amen

✠ Chimes/Meditation

Postlude

Variations on "In Dulci Jubilo"



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God, in Memory of Squire Skelding, Jim & Kathryn Heinbaugh, Judy Kenney, Doris Austin, Raymond & Clara Losch, Mary, Mark, and Ronnie Keller, Jean, Dink & Marlene Schneck, and Grace Herring. Presented by Barb & Scott Skelding.

