

St. John's United Church of Christ
Worship Service: 9:00am / Sunday School: 10:15am

~ Communion ~

"First Sunday of Advent"

Sunday, December 1, 2024



[* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

Words of Welcome: ““New month, new day, new date, new chapter, new page, new wishes. Welcome December!”

Organ Prelude: “The Desert Shall Rejoice” — L. Smith

Welcome & Announcements

Dedicating our Stewardship Pledges

Pastoral Greeting

Lighting the Advent Candle⁺:

*Opening Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #154

*Prayer of the Day⁺:

Come be with us, O Holy One, for we yearn for your presence. We seek your guidance, yes, and reminders of your love. We desire the already- not yet of the coming Kingdom, the promise that all will be well. We hope for the day when sharing for all will mean scarcity for none, the day when your shalom will truly reign over all the Earth. We pray for your Spirit to move in us as we prepare again for the coming of Christ, both in the manger and at the end of time. But mostly, O God, we yearn for you. We yearn for your presence. So come be with us. Come be Emmanuel. Come be. For we pray this in the name of He who shows you to us, Jesus. Amen.

Prayer Response: “Glory Be to the Father” #734

Mission Moment: Southeast Indiana Health Clinic

Especially for Children

The Song: **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them in His hand,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Anthem: “Chatter With the Angels” ~ Children’s Choir

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Luke 21:25-36

Anthem: “Thou Didst Leave They Throne” ~ Men’s Choir

Sermon: "Redemption Drawing Near"
Hymn: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" #164

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation for Our Offerings

Organ Offertory: "Mary's Cradle Song" — Reger

Doxology #34

Offertory Prayer

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

[We share an open communion here at St. John's. All who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior are invited.]

The Communion Prayer and Words of Institution: The Lord's Prayer:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Sharing of the Bread & Cup: *(Note that there are grapes in the trays – these grapes are offered for youth who are not yet taking full Communion. We want them to start experiencing the meaning of communion and feel included.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" #176

*Benediction

Organ Postlude: "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying" — Walther

+ Adapted from the United Methodist 2024 Advent Candle Litany, original by Dr. Lisa Hancock.

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Joseph Feldmann
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. David Johnston
Organist/Choir Director	Mr. David W. Hanson

LITURGIST / BENEVELOENCE CALENDAR:

December 1	Southeast Indiana Health Clinic	Linda Kanning
December 8	Global Ministries	Dan Hall
December 15	St. John's Music Fund	Gary Weber
December 22	Safe Passage	Donna Weber
December 24	Veterans of the Cross	Joan Westerfeld
December 29	Church World Service (UCC)	Bev Schwier



St. John's Prayer List – Those Bereaved *(these names remain on for one year):*

John Moody; Gayle Sarringhaus.

Others For Whom We Have Been Asked To Pray:

Dave & Bonnie Johnston; Nikki Sarringhaus; Carolyn Carson (Breast Cancer, Grandmother to Nikki Sarringhaus); Randy & Becky Schebler; Delores Cornett; Sandi Maxwell (Cancer, friend of Jennifer Huffmeyer); Georgia Haarman; Mark & Lara Mortimer and family (On their healing); Lonna Patton (On her recovery, Pastor Joey's Mother); Robbyn Woluing (Cancer Diagnosis, Cousin to Ron, Mark & Randy Meyer); Dave Raver; Bill & Ella Meyer (Health Issues, brother & sister-in-law to Ron, Mark & Randy Meyer); Velma Placke (On her recovery); Carrie Hornberger (Health Issues, friend to Dale Koester); Trenton Gesell (Health Issues, neighbor to Dale Koester); Glenn Gesell (Health Issues, sister-in-law's brother to Dale Koester); The family of Gayle Sarringhaus on his passing; Mike Bauman (Heart Issues, Brother to Jim Bauman).

Members/Friends Serving Active Duty in the Armed Forces:

Quintin Comer, Navy (deployed), Kris Freeman, Aaron Gordon, Steven Meer, Ryan Miller, Bryce Timonera, Chris Williams.

Our Members and Friends in Nursing/Retirement Homes: (For Peace)

St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville: Margaret Meyers; Carol Narwold.

Aspen Place, Greensburg: Charlotte Huffmeyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 1: Communion Sunday & Men's Choir Sings

December 4: 7pm: Confirmation Class
7pm: Chancel Choir Practice

December 8: 10am: Sunday School Board Meeting

December 10: 7pm: Council Meeting

December 11: 7pm: Confirmation Class

December 8: Chancel Choir Sings

December 15: 9am: Chancel Choir Christmas Concert, featuring Christmas anthem of Don Besig & Nancy Price
6pm: Children's Christmas Program 6m

FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS:

We are once again offering the chance to remember or honor a loved one by providing Poinsettias for our Sanctuary for Christmas. This year, you have two options: 1) you can buy a Poinsettia or order one to have delivered to church. If you do this, please have all Poinsettias to the church no later than 4pm on Friday December 20th (the Columbus Avenue door will be unlocked that day). Flowers will be arranged the morning of the 22nd; or 2) order a "Heavenly Bouquet", this is if you still would like to honor / remember someone but don't want a flower. These cost a minimum of \$5. In either case, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering tray or send an email to the church office. To ensure Poinsettia/Monetary memorials are included in the bulletin, please have your slips or email turned in no later than Tuesday, December 17th. You may pick up your flower after the evening Christmas Eve service, December 24th. *(Please order your Poinsettia from the Florist of your choice.)*



I would like to place a Poinsettia or give a Monetary Donation. Please Circle One:
In- Loving Memory of / or / In-Honor of

Given by: _____

SCRIPTURES



Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."



Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said,] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Hymns

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (page #154)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!
O come, thou Day-spring,
come and cheer our spirits by thine advent
here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **[Refrain]**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and
cause in her ways to go. **[Refrain]**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **[Refrain]**

Glory Be to the Father (page #734)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (page #164)

Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The Bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!
Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord,
whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and in her heart new joy is springing.
She wakes; she rises from her gloom,
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,
and strong in grace, in truth victorious.
Her star is risen; her light is come.
O, come, you Blessed One,

(~continued in next column)

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (continued)

Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!
We go until the halls we view
where you have bid us dine with you.

Now let all the heavens adore you,
and saints and angels sing before you.
The harps and cymbals all unite.
Of one pearl each shining portal, where,
dwelling with the choir immortal, we
gather 'round Your dazzling light.
No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained
to hear what joy is ours!
Crescendos rise; Your halls resound;
hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

Doxology (page #34)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (page #176)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's ploy,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I we open wide
my heart to you; her, Lord, abide!
Let me be your sinner presence feel:
your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.