



St. John's United Church of Christ

December 24, 2023

CHRISTMAS EVE



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

*"The Gift of Being Present"*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

\*INTROIT *"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"* No. 134

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us,  
revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L. We come to celebrate the God of love.

P. We come to celebrate that God is Love.

L. We come to celebrate that Love revealed:

P. Jesus has come into the world so that in Jesus we might have life!<sup>cw</sup>

\*OPENING HYMN *"Angels, We Have Heard on High"* No. 155

\*INVOCATION (In Unison)

Holy Living God, you are our Light. Let your light grow in our lives each day, so we can be  
a Present of Light to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen.<sup>wd</sup>

\*RESPONSE *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* No. 149 (4)

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE Jerri Johanningsmeier

Jill Lopez

RESPONSE *A Candle is Burning* (Tune: Away in a Manger)

We honor Messiah with the CHRIST candle's flame.

Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O come, all ye faithful, rejoice in this night  
as God comes among us, the Christians' true light.



**\*THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

*Please extinguish the candles but continue to let the light of God's love,  
the compassion of Christ, and the grace of God's Spirit shine through your lives.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

"Joy to the World"

No. 143

**POSTLUDE**

*Please put your candle & holder in the available container as you leave the sanctuary.*

**Worship Notes**

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<sup>WD</sup> Worship Design Studio; Marcia McFee, reprinted with permission. (Sometimes Adapted)

<sup>MM</sup> Ministry Matters, Nancy C. Townley (adapted)

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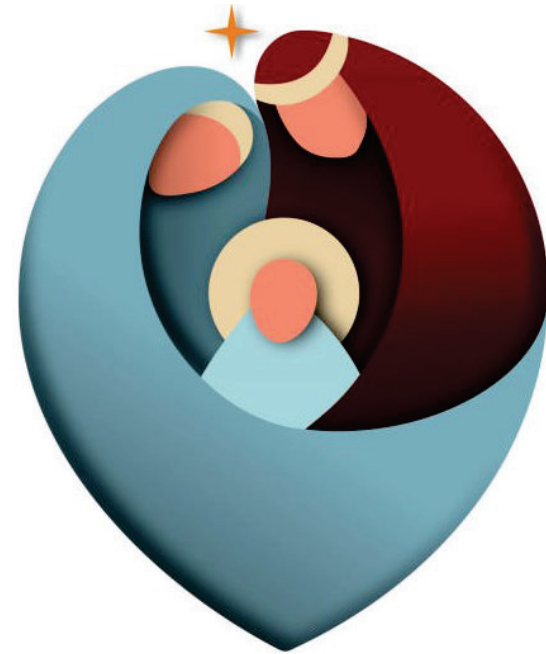
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Please consider supporting St. John's United Church of Christ so we can continue to do God's work and mission here and throughout the world. Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office in person or by mail.

Worship services will be found on the church website, [www.myucc.org](http://www.myucc.org), by clicking on the "sermons" tab. And on the church Facebook page, *St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes*

***Many hearts. Many voices. One church.***



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