

loved the world

THAT HE GAVE...



# 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. WD

\*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

(Tune: Away in a Manger)

RESPONSE A Candle is Burnina

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Grown Up Christmas List

Vera Mattingly

**ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN** 

**THE SONG** "Away in a Manger"

(words below) THE PRAY

(Please join in singing as the children return to their seats.)

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

## THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 46

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

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen. #

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER**

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-20

## The Birth of Jesus

**SCRIPTURE** 

Luke 2:1-7

"And she gave birth to her first born son...and laid him in a manger."

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 144 (1, 2)

## The Proclamation of the Angels

**SCRIPTURE** 

Luke 2:8-14

"Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

HYMN

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

No. 153 (1.3)

## The Witness of the Shepherds

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-18

" When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child..."

HYMN

"The First Noel"

No. 151 (1,2)

# The Response of the People

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:19-20

"... and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them."

HYMN

"There's a Song in the Air"

No. 159

### THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

## THE INVITATION

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In Unison]

Holy One, we are so excited. Christmas Eve is here. As we celebrate Christ's birth and in all the days ahead, slow us down again. As we have heard Mary's "Yes!" to your good news, help us remember that you continually call us to be those who bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen. MM

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

## THE COMMUNION PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In 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 SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP
THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## The Candlelight Ceremony

Please pass the light down each row, tipping the unlit candle into the lit candle.

When the pastors raise their lighted candles, please raise the one you are holding.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King; Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

## \*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**

CW Reprinted with permission from *Chalice Worship* © 1997 by Chalice Press Worship Design Studio; Marcia McFee, reprinted with permission. (Sometimes Adapted) MM Ministry Matters, Nancy C. Townley (adapted)

St. John's United Church of Christ 606 N. Fifth Street Vincennes, Indiana 4759 812-882-2720 email: stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.myucc.org

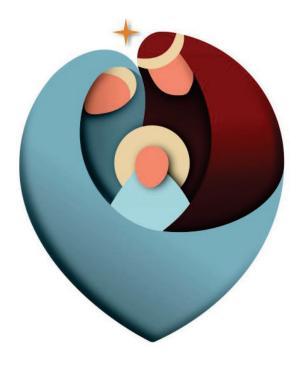
Facebook: St. John's United Church

of Christ Vincennes

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, 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.



St. John's United Church of Christ
606 N. Fifth Street
Vincennes, Indiana 47591
812-882-2720
Email: stjohnsoffice@gmail.com
Website myucc.org
Facebook St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes