



St. John's United Church of Christ
December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent



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

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

THE INTROIT "Emmanuel" No. 134

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

- L. Make ready a pathway for our God.
P. Clean out the debris in our hearts and our closets.
L. Clear out a space in our calendars.
P. Put aside any sense of unworthiness
L. And focus on the One who comes to love us.
P. Prepare a place in our homes and hearts.
L. Set the table and light the candles,
P. For Christ is coming.

***THE OPENING HYMN** "O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" No. 119 vs. 1, 2

***THE INVOCATION (In Unison)**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come into our midst. Come into our hearts. Come into our homes and our community, into our schools and workplaces. May we welcome you everywhere, making room for you, preparing for you, anticipating your arrival with joy and reverence. We commit this season of Advent to becoming ready. Shine your light in those nooks and crannies we keep in the shadows. Sweep the cobwebs from our long-hidden doubt and fear. Repair our torn and wounded places. We long for your arrival. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** No. 35

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 with out end. Amen. Amen.

THE ANTHEM "O, Come to Set Us Free" -McDonald

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE Someone

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

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of peace in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

THE SONG

"Away in a Manger" (words below)

(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)**

Advent comes with the promise of light and love to come. Advent comes with the promise
that, if we just wait, the Prince of Peace will arrive. Advent comes with the expectation
that the best is yet to be. As we offer our gifts, let it be with thanksgiving and joy that we
are able to bring the light of Advent into another's dark world. Amen.

Special Music, Jonathan Clark, Guest Soloist "In The First Light" Kauklin

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON Prepare the Way of the Lord

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 HYMN** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" No. 129 (1,2)

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***THE HYMN** "Go in Peace" No. 445
POSTLUDE

Worship Notes

^{ww}**Care: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday** were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay,
Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

St. John's United Church of Christ email:
stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com **Worship Notes**

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St. John's United Church

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of Christ

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.

Many hearts. Many voices. One church.

Facebook:



THE CHRISTMAS FUND: "GRACE UPON GRACE"

"From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."
John 1:16

Grace is truly at the center of everything for us humans. Grace shapes our faith, our family, our friendships, and our identity. Grace is not just being given the benefit of the doubt, or God bestowing favor on the less than worthy. Grace is also the root of gratitude and thankfulness. It is at the heart of our thanksgiving/eucharistic meal. "Grace upon grace" is a reminder of the great gifts of God to us, and an expression of our grateful response to that fullness.

Your gifts to the Christmas Fund allow the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide grace, hope, and joy through financial relief to UCC pastors, lay church leaders, and their families. Thanks to you, no request goes unfulfilled. Your graceful response to the Christmas Fund appeal ensures the flow of loving support will not be interrupted.

In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund
Give online at www.christmasfund.org.



- ### Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Dan Roark—Gentle Care - 1202 S. 16th St., Vincennes, IN 47591.

Home

caregivers

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastors	Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri
	Rev Linda Frische-Mouri
Head Usher	Steve Cooper
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Jill Doggett
Sound	
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Pastoral Search Chair	Sheri Stodghill



"Thank you to our volunteers from St. John's UCC who will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Wed., Dec. 13. Why not head to Save a Lot that day between 10:00 - 2:00 or 4:00 - 6:00 and drop a donation into the red kettle to help those in need from our community?"



Attention! Missing! If you have the black cart that has wheels on it please return to the kitchen by January 1, 2024. It is needed for several events .

Any items left out in kitchen after January 1, 2024 will be disposed of. Please help us to keep our facility clean and uncluttered.

The Evangelism and Membership Committee is king for:

Greeters: Two people, one for the ramp entrance and the other from the bell tower entrance, to warmly greet everybody that enters our doors.

*Build positive relationships with those that come more frequently or are members.

* Take time with individuals that are relatively new guests to our church, letting them know that you are there to be of assistance (finding restrooms, signing red books, access blankets, hearing devices, back rests, wheelchairs etc. Making them aware of our nursery room and staff, if needed, and giving out first time a visitor's bag. If you are interested in serving as a greeter on a Sunday or two. Please sign up on hallway bulletin board or contacting church office at stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com.



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

SUNDAY, December 10

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship w/ Pastor Debbie 10:30

Children's Church

MONDAY, December 11

Babe Store 12-5:30pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Outreach & Missions 6:30pm

Preschool Christmas Program 7pm

WEDNESDAY, December 13

Dinner & Conversation Kelso's 5pm

Salvation Army Bell Ring Day (Sav-A -Lot)

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, December 17

Sunday School 9:15 am

Fellowship 10:00 am

Children's Church

MONDAY, December 18

Babe Store 12-5:30pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Worship Comm. 6pm

Church Board 7pm

WEDNESDAY, December 20

Dinner & Conversation American Table 5pm

Choir 7pm

FRIDAY, December 22

Newsletter Deadline