



**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**December 24, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Christmas Eve Morning**



[\* = 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 will sing of your steadfast love, O God; Forever, with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness.

**P. We declare your love, unending, unfailing. We will sing. We will sing.**

L. Our never-ceasing songs shall show the mercies of God for the ages to know.

**P. We declare your love, eternal, enduring. We will sing. We will sing.**

L. Our song forever shall record the tender mercies of the LORD;

**P. We declare your love, immortal, sustaining. We will sing. We will sing.**<sup>ww</sup>

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

No. 148

**\*INVOCATION (In Unison)**

God of glory and grace, shine upon us as we worship you this day. Shine in our hearts and minds, that we may reveal your message of love. Shine in our very being, that our lives may reveal this message for all the world to see and hear. Amen.<sup>MS</sup>

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**

The Sanders Family

**THE RESPONSE**

*A Candle is Burning*

*(Tune: Away in a Manger)*

*A candle is burning, a candle of love,*

*A candle to point us to heaven above.*

*A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,*

*For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

**ANTHEM**

*"How Could the Shepherds Know?"*

*-Frombach/Nix*

**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.**

**MEMORIAL MOMENT**

*Dannie Ray Roark*

*July 26, 1952—December 11, 2023*

**THE INVITATION TO 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**

**Generous God, we give thanks for all the beautiful resources you have given to us. Let these gifts bring glory and honor to you and beauty and peace to your creation. Amen.**<sup>ww</sup>

**THE GIFT OF BEING PRESENT  
LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**THE SCRIPTURE**

*The Presence of Hope*

*Luke 1:41-45*

**HYMN**

*"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

*No. 125*

**THE SCRIPTURE**

*"The Presence of Peace"*

*Luke 2:13-14*

**HYMN**

*"It Came upon a Midnight Clear"*

*No. 153(1, 4)*

**THE SCRIPTURE**

*"The Presence of Joy"*

*Luke 2:10-12*

**HYMN**

*"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

*No. 150 (1)*

**THE SCRIPTURE**

*"The Presence of Love"*

*John 3:16-17*

**HYMN**

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

*No. 163*

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**

**THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In Unison]**

**Most loving and gracious God, forgive us our sins: those we commit knowingly, and those we do without perception of how we have hurt others. Open our hearts to hear your truth, understand our failure, and reach a new level of wisdom, that in all we do and say we may let your light shine through our lives, bring glory to your name, and live with love and compassion in this world. We ask in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate, Jesus the Christ, Light of the World. Amen.<sup>#</sup>**

## THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### THE COMMUNION 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 SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

#### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*THE HYMN *"Joy to the Word"* No. 143

#### \*THE BENEDICTION

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

#### POSTLUDE

#### Worship Notes

<sup>WW</sup>Worship Ways, *A Tent, A Tabernacle, A Throne: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve Morning Year B* was written by The Rev. Mia M. McClain, Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She is an ordained UCC minister.

<sup>MS</sup>*Mary Scifres for Mary Scifres Ministries © 2022 (Sometimes adapted)*

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St. John's United Church of Christ  
606 N. Fifth Street  
Vincennes, Indiana 4759  
812-882-2720

email: [stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.myucc.org](http://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](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.***

## THOUGHTS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As much as we have our attention on the star and the manager just around the corner  
- and all that we want to do and say - may we not forget to let love in.

For the Beloved longs for us:

to listen to us, to bear witness to us,

to be made flesh and live among us.

As the mystics say, it is not just about if or how we find God

- but even more, it is allowing ourselves to be found by the Beloved in return.

To remove all barriers to belonging with the one who created us

and thus to all creation around us, too.

So may we open ourselves to our very essence,

to the love that was first given to us. Amen.<sup>PB</sup>

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

<sup>PB</sup>The above words were written by the Rev. Elyse Berry, who serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) of the United Church of Christ .



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Continuing Prayer Requests Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, Dan Roark & Family, for Gary Myer and family. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.
- Please keep the family of Dannie Roark in your prayers during this very difficult time.



### Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

**Norma Meyer**, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 142, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Susie Milligan**, Colonial Assisted Living, - 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Joy Tooley**, Willow Manor, - 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Leona Conway**, Willow Manor, -request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

**Marge Beamon**, Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

**Franklyn Schroeder**, Oak Village Health Care Center – 200 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

### Home

**Alexander Family**  
**Bruce Deckard**

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (chairman of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.



**Dannie Ray Roark**  
**July 26, 1952~ December 11, 2023**

Dannie married Brenda (Spanger) Roark on Dec. 7, 1974. They recently quietly celebrated their 49th anniversary, made even more special by the thoughtfulness of friends and family. Blessings acquired during those years, beyond the families from which they'd each originally come, included a daughter, Lori, and the family she and her husband, Chris, created. Dannie will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and "papaw." Hobbies included all things sports — whether participating, watching on TV or, most importantly, watching his grandsons participate. Baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball and golfing (where he proudly achieved a hole-in-one) were all sports he enjoyed playing over the years. He was also an avid IU fan, especially men's basketball, and had been a Bobby Knight fan. As a young child, Dannie became a Mickey Mantle fan and continued to root for the New York Yankees, despite their many detractors. It was very difficult for Dannie, after moving to Vincennes, to become a Lincoln Alices fan, having been a North Knox graduate. However, once Lori began playing volleyball and basketball, he was hooked! Then came the grandchildren and he became among their top fans (along with their teammates.) The granddaughter's dance lessons came late in the game for Dannie, but he would undoubtedly have supported her in that as well.

## 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	Jana Vieck
Sound	Lonny Vieck
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Pastoral Search Chair	Sheri Stodghill



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, [myucc.org](http://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 24**

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30am

Christmas Service 7pm

#### **MONDAY, December 25**

Christmas Day

Office Closed

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 27**

Laundry Love 6-8pm

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **SUNDAY, December 31**

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30am

#### **MONDAY, January 1**

New Years Day

Office Closed

#### **WEDNESDAY, January 3**

Dinner at McAlister's 5pm

Choir 7pm

#### **THURSDAY, January 4**

Girl Scouts 4:30—6:30

#### **FRIDAY, January 5**

Phoebe's 4:30—6:00



**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](mailto:stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com).