



St. John's United Church of Christ

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



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

"The Gift of Being Present"

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

THE 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 (Responsive)

L. Come, people of faith, come join your hearts in worship.

P. We hear the invitation and hunger to join in the feast.

L. God is faithful and calls us into the loving presence of Jesus, who is the Christ.

P. We come to join with those who watch and wait and celebrate. Amen.^{MM}

*THE OPENING HYMN

"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

No. 125

*THE INVOCATION (In Unison)

Holy Living Light of God, you are our Hopeful Presence. Let this hope grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Hope to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen.^{WD}

*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

"Advent Hymn"

-Besig

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Lonny and Jana Vieck

RESPONSE

A Candle is Burning

(Tune: Away in a Manger)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,

A candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

SPECIAL 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)

For the wondrous ways this offering will breathe hope into community, we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it will help us live out God's mission, we dedicate these gifts. Gracious God, use these gifts to strengthen your call to us to carry out your justice, mercy, and peace. Amen.^{WW}

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

"Being Present with Hope"

COMMUNION HYMN

"When God Is a Child"

No. 132 (1, 4)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In Unison]

Holy God, there are times when we have cut ourselves off from the gift of your presence. We distance ourselves from the hope that is ours as heirs in the family of God. There are times when it seems beyond our imagination and times when we turn away from being a gift of hope to others in this world. And yet you come to find us, leading us gently back into safety, into care, into relationship. In this moment, we take a deep breath *[pause to do so]*, we relax into the right here and right now, and we acknowledge regrets, failures, and sins that are best to let go and give to you. *[...pause for silent prayer...]*

LEADER: Amen. Know this... there are gifts with your name on them called "Grace," called "Forgiveness," called "Assurance." They are yours whenever you accept and open them. They are already and always there for you... you do not have to "be good enough" to get them. They are there because that is the nature of our loving God.

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS [Responsive]

L. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

A. Glory to God. Amen.

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 HYMN** *"Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming"* No. 136 (1, 4)

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Worship Notes

Ministry Matters, Peter Bankson (Material Adapted)

^{WD}Worship Design Studio; Marcia McFee (Sometimes Adapted)

^{WW}***Quakering Mountains...Awesome Deeds: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent 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. (Material adapted)

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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.

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.

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

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At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying:

Gentle God, have mercy.

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord:

Gentle God, have mercy.

That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's touch in every human embrace, and God's love in every gesture of self sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord:

Gentle God, have mercy.

That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord:

Gentle God, have mercy.

That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us here to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord:

Gentle God, have mercy.

That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus, the Christ



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests** Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, For all church family members who are serving our country, Dan Roark & Family, The families of Hank Lopez, Robin Root, Mark Lange. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.
- Peggy Meyer has asked us all to please pray for her husband, Gary Meyer. He has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer, and will begin treatments soon.
- Angie Robinson, church secretary, wants to thank everyone very dearly for all the prayers for her daughter, Olivia, and new born granddaughter, Rayleigh Gail, who had to be taken to Evansville by ambulance after birth because of possible seizures, and lack of oxygen at birth. Both Olivia and Rayleigh are doing great now, and they hope to have both home by beginning of next week!

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 her home address, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center – 200 4th Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

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

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.

St. John's Search Committee would like to announce we have unanimously selected Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins as our candidate for the full time minister of St. John's.

The members of our committee look forward to talking with you about our joyful interactions with Pastor Debbie. We hope you make every effort to attend one of the **Meet and Greet** opportunities listed below. This will give you a chance to get to know Pastor Debbie in a more informal setting, in addition to hearing her preach at the Sunday morning worship service.

Saturday morning, December 9th, between 9 am - 11 am:

Breakfast with Pastor Debbie and the Search Committee. You are encouraged to stop by Memorial Hall in St. John's to have some breakfast and meet with Pastor Debbie before you head out for your last minute Christmas shopping.

Saturday evening, December 9th, between 5 - 7 pm:

Pizza Party with Pastor Debbie and the Search Committee. After a full day of Christmas preparations, who wants to cook? You are invited to stop by Memorial Hall in St. John's to participate in this opportunity to meet Pastor Debbie and enjoy some pizza.

Sunday morning, December 10th, 10:30 am Worship Service:

Pastor Debbie will conduct the Worship Service. Following the service, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on the Search Committee's recommendation to call Debbie Jo Atkins as St. John's new pastor. Assuming a positive vote, it is our hope that Pastor Debbie will join our church family sometime in February.

We believe that God has led us to this exciting moment in our ministry. We look forward to growing together as a faith community, serving others and proclaiming the good news of God's love.

A sign-up sheet is located in the church hallway to sign up for one of the meet and greets! We are trying to get a rough estimate at each event for food. If you forget to sign up, please stop by and meet Pastor Debbie anyway...we always have plenty of food!



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

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastors	Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri
	Rev Linda Frische-Mouri
Head Usher	Elaine Workman/ Ed Cummings/ Betsy Marchino
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Jana Vieck
Sound	Bruce Deckard
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Pastoral Search Chair	Sheri Stodghill

Advent Celebration Today!

Sunday, December 3, 2023
St. John's United Church of Christ
606 N Fifth Street Vincennes, Indiana

10:30 – 11:30 Worship Service
11:30 – 12:00 Sandwich Luncheon
12:00 – 2:00 Crafts, candy making,
games, tree trimming, and more



**Volunteer to be a
Bell Ringer!** Our
church again has the
opportunity to assist

the Salvation Army with its annual
campaign helping those in need in
our community. On **Wednesday,
December 13th** inside the “**Save a
Lot**” grocery only 6 one-hour shifts
are available this year. If you can
help, please see Brenda Roark or
contact her via email at
bjr72@hotmail.com or text or call
812-890-1221.



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 3

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30

Children's Church

Advent Festival Following Service

MONDAY, December 4

Babe Store 12-5:30pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm (*new Time*)

WEDNESDAY, December 6

Dinner & Conversation Senior Tequila 5pm

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, December 7

Girl Scouts 4:30pm

SATURDAY, December 9

Breakfast with Pastor Debbie 9-11am

Pizza Party with Pastor Debbie 5-7pm

LOOKING AHEAD

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

WEDNESDAY, December 13

Dinner & Conversation Kelso's 5pm

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

Choir 7pm