

# St. John's United Church of Christ January 7, 2024 First Sunday After the Epiphany



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

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

**THE INTROIT** "Surely the Presence of the Lord"

No. 263

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

- L. Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
- P. We have seen the light of Christ like a star shining in the sky; and like the Magi, we have come to worship.
- A. Glory be to God, and to Jesus Christ, the Word of Light, in whom God is made known in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. BW

\*THE OPENING HYMN

"As With Gladness"

No. 173

#### \*THE INVOCATION (In Unison)

Triune God, you come among us in the fullness of your being and affirm the fullness of our humanity – mind, body, and spirit. In you, we find joy and pleasure. In you, we claim peace and hope. In you, we arise to greet a new day and a new way of being. Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness and your way. Amen. ww

\*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 "God of Glory" -McDonald

**EPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN** 

**THE SONG** "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (words below)

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.

Every child in every land, Jesus holds them by the hand,

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

MEMORIAL MOMENT

Joy D. Tooley

December 29, 1948 — December 27, 2023

## THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY No. 46
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise

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)

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen. ww

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON "Epiphany Light"

**COMMUNION HYMN** "O God of Vision" No. 288 (1, 4, 5)

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In Unison]

Ever-patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around bombarded by news of war and poverty, famine and genocide, injustice and oppression. The maelstrom of things and issues and people of the dark, can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us be people of the light, shining your light of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the dark places of our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of the light. Amen. MM

## 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 "Lovely Star in the Sky" No. 175 (1, 3, 4)

## \*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

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

**POSTLUDE** 

### **Worship Notes**

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WThe Voice: Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

Ministry Matters, Joanne Carlson Brown

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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, 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 EPIPHANY

God of the nations,

we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor.

The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace.

May Christ's brightness illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.

We ask this through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

 Continuing Prayer Requests Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, For the family of Dannie Roark & Family, for Gary Myer and family. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.



### Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

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

**Susie Milligan,** <u>Colonial Assisted Living</u>, - 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591 **Leona Conway,** <u>Willow Manor</u>, -request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

Marge Beamon, <u>Remains in rehab</u>. 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

# <u>Home</u>

## 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! <a href="St. John's UCC Caregivers">St. John's UCC Caregivers</a>- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

New offering envelopes for 2024 have been ordered but are on delay as of checking on January 1 after not receiving. As soon as I get them I will get hen to the congregation . Until then extra green envelopes have been added to the pews . Please us e those and I will post accordingly to your account. Sorry for the delay.



2023 Statements will be going in the next week or so, keep an eye out for them!



The annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled immediately following Church on January 21, 2023.

Please plan to attend.

### ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri **Pastors** 

Rev Linda Frische-Mouri

Head Usher

DeEtta Welte Organist Becky Brockman Music Director, Pianist Will Meyer Children /Family Ministry Coordinator Darcie Bahr

**Nursery Attendant** Projection

Sound

Angie Robinson **Church Secretary Church Board President** Jana Vieck

How would you like to see and engage with others that walk through our church doors on Sunday mornings. This is a good way to build that connection with your church family. The Evangelism & Membership committee is looking for individuals or families to serve as greeters 3-4 times a year. There is a sign-up sheet on the Memorial Hall bulletin board or tear off the bottom of this sheet with your name and the best way to contact you to arrange a Sunday that suits you to volunteer.

Name:	
Best contact method:	
Best month or time of the year:	



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, January 7

Kickoff 175th Anniversary Celebrations Sunday School 9:15 am Fellowship 10am Worship 10:30am

## MONDAY, January 8

Evangelism & Membership 6:30pm

## WEDNESDAY, January 10

Dinner at Pub n Grub 5pm Christian Ed 6pm Choir 7pm

# LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, January 14

Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30am

MONDAY, January 15

# **Martin Luther King Day**

Office Closed Preschool Closed Worship Comm. 6pm

# **WEDNESDAY**, January 17

Dinner at Procopio's 5pm Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, January 18

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm