

ST. JACOB UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHRISTMAS EVE – 4:00 PM

December 24, 2023

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.
It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to our pastor,
Rev. Philip Barbier, and let us know if there is any way we might be of service
to you or your family.

Silent Reflection:

“Good news from heaven the angels bring, Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given, To crown us with the joy of heaven.”
~ Martin Luther



WELCOME

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

PEOPLE: **We long for a light to guide us.**

PASTOR: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy.

PEOPLE: **We long for God's joy in our lives.**

PASTOR: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

PEOPLE: **We long to be relieved of all that we carry.**

PASTOR: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PEOPLE: **He is named Emmanuel: God with us.**

**In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child, we find our light,
our joy, our comfort. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!**

HYMN RESPONSE **Come and Hear the Joyful Singing**

#197

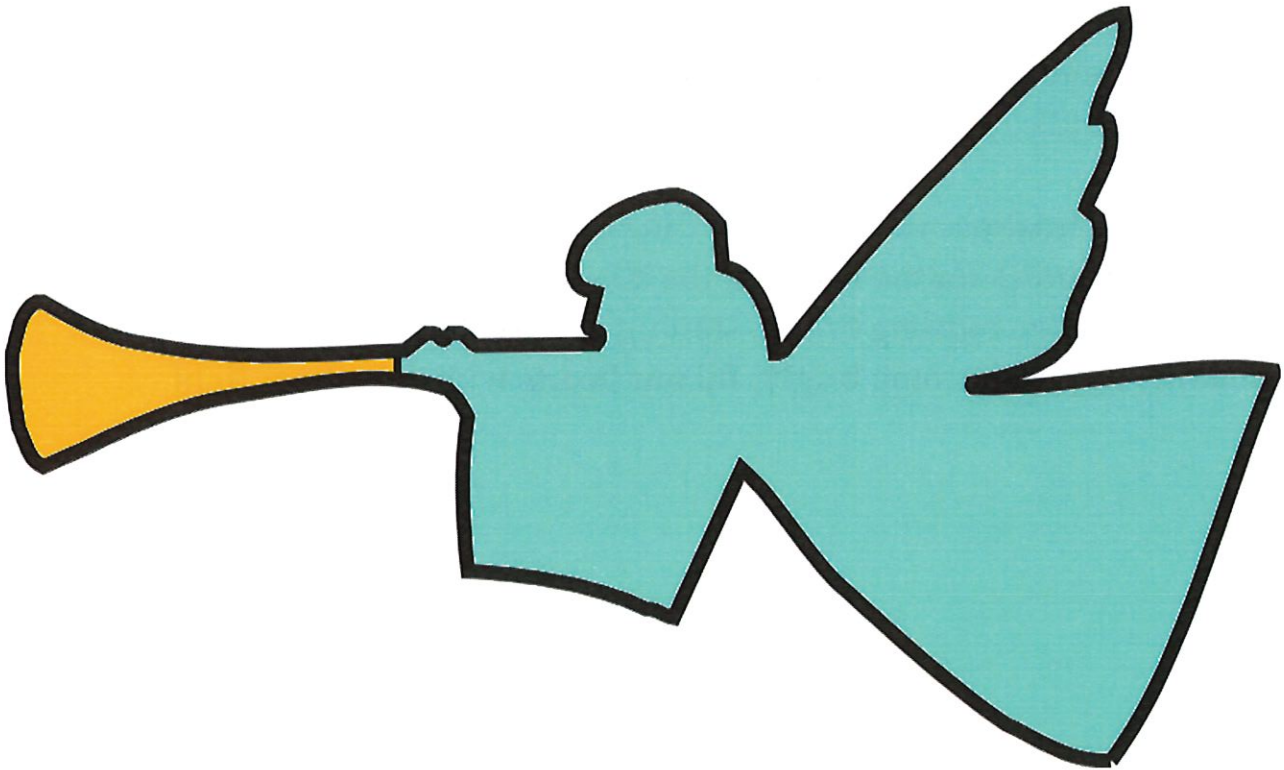
Come and hear the Joyful singing, Alleluia, Gloria,
Set the bells of heaven ringing, Alleluia, Gloria,
God the lord has shown us favor - Alleluia, Gloria,
Christ is born to be our Savior. Alleluia, Gloria!

GATHERING PRAYER (*pastoral*)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.



THE ADVENT WREATH & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Patti & Cameron Woods

Advent Song

1. Light the advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
2. Light the advent candle, two Think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
3. Light the advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
4. Light the advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
5. Light the Christmas candles, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Prayer for the children (unison):

We send blessings upon our children
for all God's love, all Christ's friendship,
and all the caring of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song Response

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

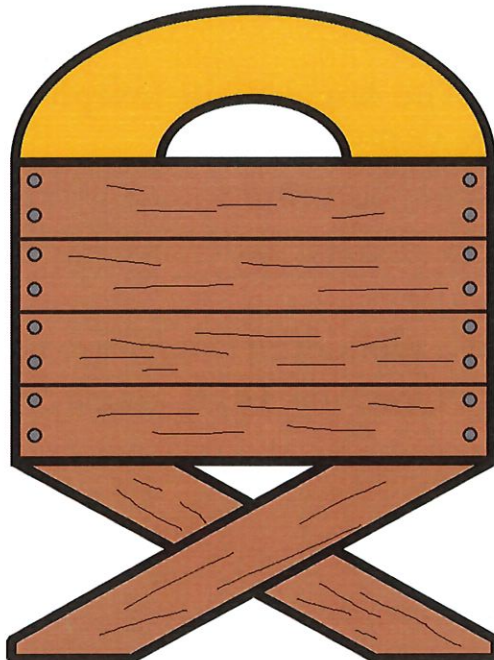
OFFERTORY & PRESENTATION

Invitation to Offering

Give Thanks:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," because of
what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Prayer of Dedication (*pastoral*)



SERVICE OF SCRIPTURES AND CAROLS

Luke 1: 26 – 38

The Angel Visits Mary

Andy Schreiber

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

#189

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Luke 1: 39 – 45

Mary and Elizabeth

Kay Guse

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

#154

1. O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Matthew 1: 18-25

The Angel Visits Joseph

Jack Guse

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

#177

1. Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word
2. Jesus, Lord God Almighty, Wonderful Counselor, Light of the World,
The Prince of Peace, Son of the Most High, loving Shepherd, Lamb of God.

Luke 2: 1 – 7

Birth in Bethlehem

Carol Kynion

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

#180

1. O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

Luke 2: 8 – 14

The Angel and the Shepherds

Robbie Meyer

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

#185

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Luke 2: 15 – 20

The Shepherds Worship

Dian Gansmann

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

#188

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

#184

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
2. So bring him incense, gold, myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

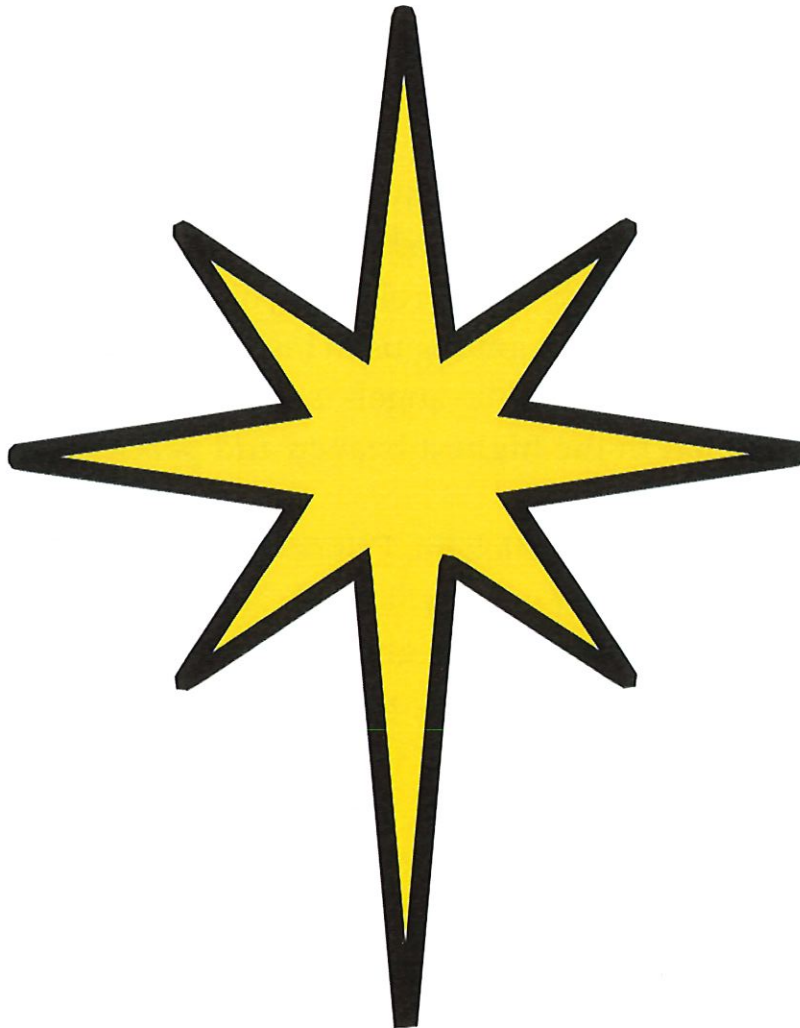
JOY TO THE WORLD

#179

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
let all their songs employ; while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of Gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever circling years, shall come the time fortold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PASTOR: This is not our table. This is God's table. The bread and wine we are about to share joins us to the people throughout history and across the world who have come to this meal in search of life. Just as Jesus' birth was for the whole world, this bread and wine is for everyone, for the hungry, for the lost, for those who search, and those who are found, for those who question, and those who know peace, this bread and wine is for everyone.

COMMUNION PRAYER

PASTOR: God be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We lift them to God.**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

PEOPLE: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: On a night like tonight we have much to thank you for, Gifting God, for you have sent your Child to shine among us while we were still under the shadow of death. You broke the yoke of sin and loneliness that burdened us. You dwelt among us in justice and truth, giving grace and peace. And so we join the angels' song to the shepherds:

PEOPLE: **Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to all of good will.**

PASTOR: Teach us Child of Bethlehem, Prince of Peace, to follow your example of righteous living and good will to all. As you broke your life open in our midst at Christmas, as Jesus grew to share bread with his disciples and followers, so we remember you as we break bread together this night. Be among us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

PEOPLE: **Christ was promised; Christ is born; Christ will dwell among us.**

PASTOR: At this table unify our hearts and lives that we may be your people who return to the world glorifying and praising you through our living.

PEOPLE: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Spirit, Three-In-One. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: God of new life with joy, we have received this sacrament of bread and wine. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ our peace and hope. Unite us together in love that we may be servants of your word. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

#186

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Service Notes

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*A special thanks to everyone
who placed a flower in church for Christmas*

In Honor of my Great-grandchildren: Mya, Brooklyn
Payton, Charleigh & Baby Bohnenstiehl
By Peggy Bohnenstiehl

In Memory of our Parents: Delmar & Mildred Frutiger & Earl & Mary Slape
& our Grandparents: Edwin & Louise Frutiger, & Vic & Emma Kirsch, &
Adrian & Eulah Beard, & William & Randa Slape
By Ken & Cathy Frutiger

In Honor of our Children: Michelle & Tim Aldrich, & Michael & Lisa Frutiger
& our Grandchildren: Sean Aldrich, Alex & Meagan Aldrich,
Alyssa Aldrich, & Dylan & Jack Frutiger
By Ken & Cathy Frutiger

In Memory of Loved Ones
By Ty & Dian Gansmann

In Honor of our Children: Troy & Lauren
By Ty & Dian Gansmann

In Memory & Honor of our Parents
By Paul & Kay Guse

In Memory of Donald, Becky, Paul, & Lottie Hanser, &
Oscar & Viney Jones & Susan McCraney
By The Hanser Family

In Honor of Katie & Kyle Bohnenstiehl, & Kellie & Kristen Hanser
By Don & Beth Hanser

In Memory of our precious Angel Rae Lynne &
all our loved ones who have preceded us in passing
By Charlie & Carol Kynion

In Honor of our precious Family and three Grandchildren: Mikayla, Kylie & Robbie
By Charlie & Carol Kynion

In Memory of Harold (JR) Rehg
In Honor of Tyler, Samantha, Todd, & Stephanie, Rehg
By Germaine Rehg

In Memory of Glen Noeltner
By Jane Noeltner

In Honor of my Grandchildren
By Jane Noeltner

In Memory of Glen Noeltner
By Duane & Patti Woods

In Honor of Jane Noeltner, Kaitlin, Josh, Collin & Cameron
By Duane & Patti Woods

*Those who purchased these flowers
may take them home following worship service
MERRY CHRISTMAS!*