



St.

JOHN'S
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE

2021

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 7:00 P.M.

"THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER WHOSE CORNERSTONE IS CHRIST"

Welcome and Merry Christmas!

Guests and Visitors

Welcome to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! We hope you feel God's love in a new, refreshing way. You can learn more about our church by scanning the QR code, by visiting the "New to SJCC" page on our website at www.stjohnsarchbold.org/newtosjcc, or by picking up a copy of "Getting to Know St. John's Christian Church: Visitor Brochure" at one of the literature racks.



Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Stations/Nursery Care are available for use by parents. Please note there are no attendants in the nursery this evening. Each room has a monitor to view and hear the service.

Large Print and Children's Bulletins are available at a table in the sanctuary narthex.

Hearing Assistance is provided by our system for hearing aids with a "loop system" switch position.

Children's Busy Bags are located in the sanctuary narthex for children ages one-year to third grade. Bags are marked by age (**Pink** = Ages 1-2; **Green** = Ages 3-5; **Yellow** = Grades K-3). Please be sure to return bags at the end of our service today.

Give & Take Board

Do you need a little peace in your day? Confidence? What about self-control? Are you in need of a spiritual pick-me-up? Could you use a quick bit of kindness after a long week? Or do you have these things to spare? Then stop by the Give and Take Board outside of the Preschool Room! Give what you can and take what you need - you just might feel or fill someone's heart with the love of God and make their week brighter!

Exit Offering

Loose offerings will go to Crossroad Child and Family Services of Fort Wayne, Indiana, a residential treatment facility for children and youth.



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnschurcharchbold,
Instagram at @stjohnsarchbold and YouTube ("St. John's Christian Church").

PRAISE GOD! JESUS WAS BORN! *We remember and celebrate God's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy when the promised Christ-child was born. A birth that dramatically changed the world! May his birth continue to shape your life as you live for Him. May the peace of that night be yours this night! Let us praise the Lord for His wondrous Light!*

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Ringing of the Tower Bells

Prelude Emma Nafziger "Christmas Carol Medley"

Christmas Greetings, Scripture Reading of Isaiah 9:2-7 & Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13, and Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Christ Candle

†Christmas Carol #125, "Joy to the World!"

Christmas Songs - Preschool and Kindergarten Children "Happy Birthday Jesus"
"Baby Jesus"

Christmas Story - "The Christmas Nativity"
Cast List on Page 5

†Christmas Carol #132, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Special Music Women's Ensemble "Not That Far From Bethlehem"
Soloist - Raegan Rutledge

Christmas Eve Message "Children Learn What They Live"

Special Music Joshua Reeb "Mary, Did You Know?"

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Reading and Scripture Concerning Light

†Christmas Carol "Silent Night" - Page 7

(As introductory music is played, the congregation's candles will be lit from the main aisle. When lighting, please dip the unlit candle to the lighted one and be careful with your candle flame. When all candles are lit, sanctuary lights will be dimmed and we will begin singing "Silent Night." Candles will be raised higher at the start of each verse.)

†The Lord's Prayer - prayed in unison (debts/debtors) - *Extinguish candles after prayer*

†Benediction

†Postlude

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7 ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Psalms 96:1-3, 11-13 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. ~ ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; ¹² let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; ¹³ they will sing before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

TONIGHT'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist - Lynne Christman

Guitar - Adam Swisher

Song Leader - David Stuckey

Sound - James Grime

Easy Worship - Kelly Ducey

Acolyte - Ava Genter

Live Stream - Ryan Christman

Head Usher - Dave Walker

Trumpets - Matt Hines & Anna Yoder

Advent Wreath - Betsy Redd, Brad Roth and David Stuckey

Ushers - Brayden Hall, Emma Hall, Leah Hall, and Emily Hines

Candle Lighters - Brayden Hall, Emma Hall, Leah Hall, Emily Hines, Tyler Hurst, Emma Nafziger, Kenny Walker, and Hailey Wooley

“THE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY”

Narrator - Klaire Kern

Mary - Ali Genter

Joseph - Jesse Meyer

Messenger & Innkeeper - Jude Rutledge

Herod - Ethan Krukowski

Angels - Luci Meyer, Charlotte Meyer, Kami Link, Kassi Link

Shepherds - Eyan Krukowski, Ames Genter

Wise Men - Alec Genter, Kaylee Leupp, Finn Yoder

Children’s Program Parent Helpers - Amy Baden, Kisha Genter, Mindy Gruenhagen, Katie Link, Stacy Rutledge, Anna Yoder, Eric Yoder



THE STORY OF SILENT NIGHT

The Story of Silent Night

The story of “Silent Night” is one of the most endearing and enduring in Christian hymnody, though highly romanticized. Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) was an Austrian cathedral chorister in Salzburg as a boy. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood in 1815.

In 1816, Mohr penned the original six stanzas of the poem that would make him famous around the world. He was serving as an assistant priest in Oberndorf, in the Austrian Alps.

Franz Gruber (1787-1863) was an Austrian cantor, school teacher and composer, holding church positions near Salzburg, including Oberndorf.

Tradition has it that the carol was composed for a text by Gruber’s assistant priest, Joseph Mohr, on short notice for the Christmas Eve Mass in Oberndorf in 1818. While it was first accompanied on guitar, it may not have been because the organ didn't work. That this was due to mice eating the bellows cannot be verified and probably is closer to romanticism than fact.

The first performance of “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve, 1818, was at Mohr’s request to compose a setting for “two solo singers and choir, with guitar accompaniment...” Gruber took his composition to Mohr who happily approved it. At the Christmas Eve Mass, Mohr sang the tenor part and played the guitar, Gruber sang the bass part, and the local choir sang a refrain consisting of a repeat of the last four measures.” The use of the guitar, rather than the organ, seems to have been for aesthetic reasons rather than an organ emergency: the guitar was more appropriate for accompanying this folk-like melody than an organ.



SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night! Holy Night!

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.

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!

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.

Merry Christmas!



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502

419-446-2545 † www.stjohnsarchbold.org

Sunday Worship at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)

Admin. Assist. - Jocelyn Walker (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.*

We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.