

DECEMBER 24, 2022 | 7:00PM



Welcome to St. John's Christian Church

"The Church on the Corner Whose Cornerstone is Christ"

A black and white photograph of a nativity scene. In the foreground, there is a manger filled with straw and a white cloth. In the background, there is a wooden manger structure. The scene is lit from above, creating a bright glow and lens flare effect.

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service

COME HEAR THE REASON WE'RE INSPIRED TO SERVE TOGETHER

*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.*

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Guests and Visitors

Welcome to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ together! Please let one of our ushers know you're new (*they may have already noticed your new face!*) so they can give you a visitor brochure filled with helpful information about our church and a visitor card, which you can fill out and return to an usher or the church office after service today. Or you can scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to learn more about who we are as a congregation.



Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Stations/Nursery Care

The Nursery is open for this evening's service for any parents and small children who may get the jitters (although, we always welcome and enjoy the blessed sound of children in our service of worship!). We also have a Mother's Room located outside of the sanctuary for nursing mothers and/or mothers with young infants and toddlers. Diaper changing stations are located in both the Mother's Room and the Nursery. An usher will gladly direct you if needed.

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!

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.

Connect with us!



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 SERVICE

Ringling of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship #145, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Christmas Greeting

The Nativity Scene #157, v. 1, "Away in a Manger"

A Reading of HOPE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Micah 5:2
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Molly Rutledge

A Reading of PEACE Luke 1:26-35, 2:4-7
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (#141)

A Reading of JOY Luke 2:8-14
"O Holy Night" Raegan Rutledge

A Reading of LOVE Luke 2:15-20
"Mary, Did You Know?" Joshua Reeb

A Reading of CHRIST Galatians 4:4-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
†"Joy to the World" (#125)

Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory Pastor Ryan Volkman "Christmas Offering"

Christmas Message "Dona Nobis Pacem"

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Reading & Scripture Concerning Light

†Christmas Carol (*with Raegan Rutledge on violin*) #147, "Silent Night! Holy Night!"
(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 - Pg.7 (*Extinguish candles after prayer*)

†Benediction

†Postlude

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Reading of HOPE - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, Micah 5:2 ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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. ^{Micah 5:2} "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Reading of PEACE - Luke 1:26-35, 2:4-7 ²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God... ^{2:4}So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reading of JOY - Luke 2:8-14 ⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Reading of LOVE - Luke 2:15-20 ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Reading of CHRIST - Galatians 4:4-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 ⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ^{2 Cor. 5:17-21} Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

DONA NOBIS PACEM

Canon ①

F C F C B \flat F C
 Dona no-bis pa-cem, pacem. Do - na no - bis pa -

8 F ② C F C B \flat F C F

cem. Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

17 ③ C F C B \flat F C F

Do - na no - bis pacem. Dona nobis pa - cem.

TONIGHT'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Lynne Christman
Song Leader	Pastor Ryan Volkman
Scripture Readers	Kenny Walker IV (Hope), Tyler Hurst (Peace), Kelsey Wyse (Joy), Bryce Beltz (Love, Christ)
Acolyte	Molly Rutledge
Easy Worship	Kelly Ducey
Sound Tech	James Grime
Live Stream	Ryan Christman
Head Usher	Corey Walker
Ushers	Brayden Hall, Emma Hall, Leah Hall, Emma Nafziger
Greeters	Betsy Ducey, Gloria Lauber, Todd & Jill Nafziger, Richard Spiess, Darlene Steiner, & Jocelyn Walker
Candle Lighters	Bryce Beltz, Brayden Hall, Emma Hall, Leah Hall, Tyler Hurst, Emma Nafziger, Kenny Walker IV, Kelsey Wyse

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Morning Worship | Dec. 25th at 10:30AM

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14
Join us tomorrow morning in the Sanctuary for a simple service of worship and praise! Pastor Ryan Volkman will lead us in an interactive Christmas carol sing followed by a Christmas message by Pastor Erich Christman. Please note: there will be no Sunday school for children and youth and adult classes may meet as they wish. This service will not be available via live stream.

New Year's Day | Jan. 1 at 8:00AM and 10:30AM

We will offer two services of worship on New Year's Day, with Pastor Ryan Volkman preaching. There will be no Sunday school for children and youth and adult classes may meet as they wish.

Memorial Sunday Observance | Jan. 8 at 8:00AM and 10:30AM

In the Reformed tradition of the church, an annual service is held in remembrance of people who have died in the course of the past year. We will remember people of St. John's who have entered into eternal life as well as family members and friends who entered eternal glory. Candles will be lit, bells will be tolled, and carnations handed out in remembrance of each person of the congregation who died, or whose funeral was held at St. John's, or for whom our pastors shared in the memorial services.

SILENT 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.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Merry Christmas!

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

Pastor of Music & Worship - Rev. Ryan Volkman (Cell: 325-213-0671)

Administrative Assistant - Jocelyn Walker (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)