

December 24, 2023 | Candlelight Service | 7:00PM

# ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

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*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.*

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# Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

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## 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 welcome bag filled with helpful information about our church. Additionally, we invite you to scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to fill out our online visitor card. We hope you feel God's love in a new refreshing way this evening!



## Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Stations/Nursery Care

While the Nursery is not staffed this evening, it is still 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 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

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Ringling of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Prelude

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Lynne Christman, Organist; Buffy Riley, Pianist

Christmas Greetings, Scripture Reading of Isaiah 9:2-7 and Titus 2:11-14, and Prayer

Nativity Scene – The Christ Child

Kelsey Wyse

Carol Response

#145, v. 1, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Christ Candle

Tyler Hurst, Kenny Walker

Carol Response

"Christmas Is Coming" (p. 6)

†Christmas Carol

#125, "Joy to the World"

Children's Message

Prayer of Dedication and Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory - *Loose offerings will go to Crossroad Child & Family Services of Fort Wayne.*

Chancel Choir

"Glad Tidings of Joy"

†Christmas Carol

#132, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Reading of the Christmas Story from Luke 2:1-20 (p. 4)

Linda Heer, Brad Roth, Avery Roth, Kim S. Walker

Chancel Choir

"Wonderful Peace"

Christmas Eve Message

"The Simple and Humble Birth"

Special Music

Joshua Reeb

"Mary, Did You Know?"

### **THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS**

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Reading and Scripture Concerning Light

†A Christmas Carol

"Silent Night! Holy Night!" (p. 7)

*(As the hand bells play, 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.)*

†Benediction in Song

"Go Light Your World"

*(Extinguish candles after singing)*

†Benediction

†Postlude

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

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**Isaiah 9:2-7** 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**Luke 2:1-20** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and 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. <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## TONIGHT'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

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Accompanist: Buffy Riley

Song Leader: Roger Zimmerman

Acolyte: Jace Bernath

Sound: James Grime

Easy Worship: Kelly Ducey

Live Stream: Ryan Christman

Head Usher: Dave Walker

Ushers: Emily Hines, Emma Nafziger, Adam Walker, Emily S. Walker

Candle Lighters: Emily Hines, Tyler Hurst, Joshua Reeb, Adam Walker, Emily Walker, Gavin Walker, Kelsey Wyse, and Cameron Yoder

Hand Bell Choir:

Ringers: Keira Christman, Dale Grime, Gloria Lauber, Emma Nafziger, Sarah Nafziger, Betsy Redd, Andrew Rohrs, Harrison Rohrs, David Stuckey, Crissi Stuckey, Kenny Walker IV, Kim S. Walker, Nici Wyse, and Tyler Wyse

Accompanist: Lynne Christman

Director: Buffy Riley

## UPCOMING SERVICES

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### **Christmas Morning Worship & Caroling | Dec. 25th at 10:30AM**

We will hold a simple service of worship and praise tomorrow morning at 10:30AM in the sanctuary. Following worship, all are invited to join us for Christmas Caroling at Fairlawn Haven! Gather inside the Lutz Rd. entrance that is east of the chapel entrance at 11:45AM. Carolers will walk the halls and sing for the residents for about a half hour (song sheets will be available). Masks will be available at the front desk if anyone would want one, but they are not required.

### **Memorial Sunday Observance | Dec. 31st at 8:00AM and 10:30AM**

In the Reformed tradition of the church, an annual service is held in remembrance of people who have passed away 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.

# Christmas Is Coming

Words and Music by  
John L. Bell

C Dm/C G/C C Dm7 C/E G7 Am Em/G

"Christ - mas is com - ing." The Church is glad to sing and let the Ad - vent

Dm/F G C F/G C Am F#°/A Em/G

can - dles bright - ly burn in a ring.

1. The first is for God's prom - ise to
2. The sec - ond for the proph - ets, who
3. The third is for the Bap - tist, who
4. The fourth is for the Vir - gin, who
5. At last we light the can - dle kept

F G/F C/E Dm7 C/E F Dm7

put the wrong things right, and bring to earth's dark - ness the hope of love and  
said that Christ would come with good news for man - y and an - gry words for  
cried: "Pre - pare the way. Be read - y for Je - sus, both this and ev - 'ry  
moth - ered God's own son and sang how God's jus - tice was meant for ev - 'ry -  
new for Christ - mas day. This shines bright for Je - sus, new - born, and here to

1, 2, 3, 4

5

G7sus G7 G7sus G7 C Dm/C G/C C Dm7 C/E G7 Am Em/G

light. stay. Christ is a - mong us. The can - dles in the ring re - mind us that our

some.

day."

one.

Dm/F G C F/G C

Sav - iour will light up ev - 'ry - thing.

## “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.

## “Go Light Your World”

There is a candle in ev'ry soul  
Some brightly burning some dark and cold  
There is a Spirit who brings a fire  
Ignites a candle and makes His home

So carry your candle run to the darkness  
Seek out the hopeless confused and torn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle and go light your world

We are a fam'ly whose hearts are blazing  
So let's raise our candles  
and light up the sky  
Praying to our Father in the name of Jesus  
Make us a beacon in darkest times

So carry your candle run to the darkness  
Seek out the lonely the tired and worn  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle and go light your world

So carry your candle run to the darkness  
Seek out the helpless deceived and poor  
Hold out your candle for all to see it  
Take your candle and go light your world  
Take your candle and go light your world





**ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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