

December 24, 2024 | Candlelight Service | 7:00PM

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



CHRIST IS BORN
CHRISTMAS EVE

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 WISH YOU A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to SJCC! We are blessed to have you worship with us on this most holy night of the year! May the joy and wonder of our worship bless you as we glorify God and celebrate the coming of the Christ child, Jesus, the babe born in a stable and laid in a manger.

Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Stations/Nursery Care

While the Nursery is not staffed this evening, it is available for any parents and small children who may get the jitters (although, we always welcome and enjoy the blessed sound of children in our worship!). A Mother's Room is 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. Each room has a monitor to view and hear the service. 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).

Large Print 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.

Loose offerings received tonight will go to Crossroad Child & Family Services of Fort Wayne.

Christmas Day Worship begins at 10:30am tomorrow in the chapel – an informal cheerful time to worship and celebrate on Christ's birthday!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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. 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 8:1-9 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ² From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Luke 1:26-29 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

Luke 2:15-19 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.

Luke 2:33-35 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 24:1-10 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

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

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles		
Prelude	Jocelyn Walker	"Be Born in Me"
Christmas Greetings		
Scripture Reading of Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 8, and Prayer		Emily Walker
The Nativity Scene – The Christ Child		Tyler Wyse
Carol Response		insert, "The Friendly Beasts"
Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Christ Candle		Blake Grime & Cameron Yoder
Carol Response		"The Advent Candles"
† Christmas Carol		#132, "Angels We Have Heard on High"
Children's Message		
Prayer of Dedication and Christmas Eve Offering		
Offertory		"What Child is This?"
Special Music	Jim McCurdy & Mike McRobbie	"Circle of Love"
Readings from the Gospel of Luke - Luke 1:26-29, 2:15-19, 2:33-35, 24:1-10		Tyler Hurst
† Christmas Carol		#125, "Joy to the World!"
Christmas Eve Message		"Mary, Did You Know?"
Special Music	Joshua Reeb	"Mary, Did You Know?"

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Reading and Scripture Concerning Light

(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.)

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| † Christmas Carol | Adult Bell Choir | "Silent Night! Holy Night!" |
| † Closing Carol | | insert, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" |
| | <i>(Extinguish candles after singing)</i> | |
| † Benediction | | |
| † Postlude | | |
-

Accompanist - Lynne Christman

Song Leader - Roger Zimmerman

Sound - James Grime

Easy Worship - Tom Hines

Head Ushers - Matt Hines and Greg Walker

Live Stream - Ollie MacDonald

Acolyte - Jude Rutledge

Ushers - Carly Grime, Jack Hurst, Adam Walker, Tyler Wyse

Candle Lighters - Blake Grime, Carly Grime, Jack Hurst, Tyler Hurst, Adam Walker, Emily Walker, and Cameron Yoder

Hand Bell Choir: Jane Pearl Buckenmeyer, Keira Christman, Ryan Christman, Ann Fether, Norm Fether, Dale Grime, Gloria Lauber, Lynne Ries, Richard Spiess, Darlene Steiner, David Stuckey, Kim S. Walker, Nici Wyse and Tyler Wyse; Accompanist, Lynne Christman; Director, Buffy Riley

The Advent Candles
(Tune: Away in the Manger)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of Hope in December's dark night,
While angels sing blessings from heav'ns starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy,
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow,
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of Love,
A candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our Earth

We honor Messiah with the Christ-Candle's flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim,
O come, all ye faithful, rejoice on this night
As God comes among us, the Christian's true Light.

The Friendly Beasts

Traditional

ENGLISH, Arr. M. F. Moody

Gently

Je- sus our broth- er kind and good Was hum- bly born in a sta- ble rude, And the

The first system of musical notation for 'The Friendly Beasts'. It consists of a treble and a bass staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Gently'. The lyrics are: 'Je- sus our broth- er kind and good Was hum- bly born in a sta- ble rude, And the'.

9

friend- ly beasts a- round him stood Je- sus our broth- er kind and good.

The second system of musical notation, starting at measure 9. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: 'friend- ly beasts a- round him stood Je- sus our broth- er kind and good.'.

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift they gave Emmanuel
The gift they gave Emmanuel

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

“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.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502
419-446-2545 † www.stjohnsarchbold.org

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

Dir. of Youth & Young Adults - Jocelyn Walker (Cell: 419-575-4218)

Interim Dir. of Music Ministry - Buffy Riley (Cell: 419-572-6880)

Administrative Assistant - Gloria Beck (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)