St. John's United Church of Christ
December 24, 2021, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

Christmas Eve Prelude – Begins at 6:30 pm
St. John’s Choir
  The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
  Sing a Joyous Alleluia
  Noel, Noel, A Boy is Born
  Run, Shepherds!

Bells of St. John’s
  Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
  Go Tell It on the Mountain
  Angels We Have Heard on High
  The First Noel
  Christmas Bells
  Away in a Manger
  Hymn Tune “Afton”
  Hymn Tune “Mueller”
  Hymn Tune “Cradle Song”
  The Moon of Wintertime
  Introduction by Gloria Crum

Words of Welcome
  *Call to Worship
  from Gathered by Love

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. The grace of God has come to save us.
  For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.
  For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.

Let all people sing for joy and give thanks. Tell the world what God has done in our midst.
  God has called and chosen us to hear good news.
  God’s marvelous works are new every morning.

Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth to all who please God.
  We seek to honor God in this time of worship.
  We want to see for ourselves what God has done.

*Christmas Carol #103
*Prayer of the Day
  “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
  from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion
Eternal God, from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable, your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags; such humble Love astounds us. In Jesus you have become one with us that we might become one with you. Open our hearts to joyfully receive his love that he may be born in us, and we in him, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Illumination from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord: room in our minds and hearts; room also in our life together. Let your word be born in us anew so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, your splendor shines in us and through us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Candle Lighting

Responsive Litany

“The Light of Christ” from “Love’s Pure Light” by The Eric Wadel Family

For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope.
For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.
For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy.
For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, tonight as we gather to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Nina Widmann
Christmas Carol #79 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7 Nina Widmann
Christmas Carol #110 “Away in a Manger” Lisa Frantz
Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14 Lisa Frantz
Christmas Carol #127 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Scripture Reading Luke 2:15-20 Lisa Frantz
Christmas Carol #125 “Angels We Have Heard on High”
Children’s Message

Christmas Carol #102
“Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”

Scripture Reading
John 1:1-14

Sermon
Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

Lighting of the Candles

As we light candles in the sanctuary or from home, please share the light of Christ with all who are gathered with you, in body and in spirit.

*Christmas Carol #134
“Silent Night, Holy Night”

*Invitation to Giving

Ushers will be at the back of the isles to receive our offerings

*Commission & Benediction
from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard.

May Christ be your light, this night and forevermore.

While we extinguish our candles, we also take the light out into the world.
May we spread love and light in this world, celebrating Christ’s birth.

Postlude
Gloria Crum, organist

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Special Thanks to everyone who made our worship possible this evening.

Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given in memory of Clarence and Virginia Tarner and sister Janice Crawford by Mike and Carol Marotte.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press (Admin. by The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN 37212). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Worship Resources:

Call to Worship from Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C by Lavon Bayler. © 1994 by United Church Press.


Poinsettias: If you have donated a poinsettia, it may be taken following tonight’s service. Remaining poinsettias will be distributed and shared with others in the congregation and/or community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVEN BY</th>
<th>IN MEMORY OF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John and Nina Widmann</td>
<td>John &amp; Mildred Widmann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James and Sarah Shade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Osterman</td>
<td>Rev. Glenn E. Schultz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Powell</td>
<td>Sue Powell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen (Sis) and Bobby Hockensmith</td>
<td>Zoe and Roy Love</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy and Bob Lewis, Cookie and Jerry Miller,</td>
<td>Hazel Karper Rumler and Charles W. Karper</td>
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<td>and families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tena Keeney</td>
<td>Bob Keeney</td>
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<td>Rod and Renee Byers</td>
<td>Betty and Rowe Byers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynda Pound</td>
<td>Karl Pound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold &amp; Susan Collier</td>
<td>Clyde &amp; Jean Collier</td>
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<td>Robert &amp; Lena Piland</td>
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<td>Ken &amp; Debbie Dilling</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Elva Dilling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg &amp; Cindy St. Clair</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Lola Russell, Doug St. Clair</td>
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<td>Marvin &amp; Linda Zeger</td>
<td>Leonard &amp; Esther Zeger</td>
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<td>Robert &amp; Elva Dilling</td>
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<td>Joanne and William Slothower</td>
<td>David Slothower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Shelly</td>
<td>Elton and Thomas Shelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bev Peters</td>
<td>Gaylord &quot;Pete&quot; Peters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret &amp; Carol Rockwell</td>
<td>Don Rockwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bev Peters</td>
<td>Many, many St. John’s Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swann &amp; Diana Kongkeattikul</td>
<td>Samnuk &amp; Wandee Kongkeattikul</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Marotte Family</td>
<td>Maurice L. Marotte, Jr</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Evans Family</td>
<td>LaRoy &quot;Bud&quot; Evans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold &amp; Delores St. Clair</td>
<td>Douglas and Nicholas St. Clair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Marker</td>
<td>Helen &amp; Edgar Morganshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Morrill &amp; Mike Hair</td>
<td>Our Families – The Hairs and The Wamplers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roxanne Davenport</td>
<td>My beloved husband and parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Harrison</td>
<td>Sylvia Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Gaal</td>
<td>John Gaal and Beverly Gaal Rensch</td>
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# Christmas Eve Poinsettias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVEN BY</th>
<th>IN HONOR OF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John and Nina Widmann</td>
<td>Our children and grandchildren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter &amp; Lisa A’Zary</td>
<td>Barbara Soper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swann &amp; Diana Kongkeattikul</td>
<td>Carroll &amp; Jane Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookie and Jerry Miller</td>
<td>Our grandchildren: Mackenzie, Cooper, Madeleine, and Isabella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold &amp; Susan Collier</td>
<td>Our Sons, their wives and our granddaughters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Harrison</td>
<td>Mark T. Harrison, Timothy, Julia and Nicolette Harrison, Nicholas, Kathleen M. (Harrison) and Keegan Creswell</td>
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<tr>
<th>GIVEN BY</th>
<th>TO THE GLORY OF GOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen (Sis) and Bobby Hockensmith</td>
<td>To the Glory of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol &amp; Ed Foltz</td>
<td>To the Glory of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Marotte Family</td>
<td>To the Glory of God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O lo, He
2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to

come ye to Bethlem! Come and behold Him, born the King of
shuns not the virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not cre-
citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the
Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh ap-

angels!
at ed.
high est!
pearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

WORDS: Latin hymn; attr. to John Francis Wade, ca. 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
MUSIC: John Francis Wade, ca. 1743
ADESTE FIDELES
Irregular with refrain
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
   Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, unadvent here;
   dispense the gloomy clouds of night, and far and nigh;
   to us the path of knowledge show, and heart and mind;
   bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill till the Son of God appear.

2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine
death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Em-
cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Em-
all the world with heaven’s peace.

3. O come, Thou Wise-dom from on high, and order all things,
man to son shall come to thee, O Israel!
1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
   The cattle are lowing, the Baby wakes,

2. But little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
   Little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
   The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
   I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
   Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
   Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
   The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
   And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
   And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous (st. 1, 2), 1885; John Thomas McFarland (st. 3), 1892 (Luke 2:7)
MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887
Irregular
1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
   peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
   Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
GOD THE SON

125  Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing:
4. See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;

and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria

in excelsis Deo! Gloria

ri-a in excelsis De o!
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 heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;
   while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains flow
   and heaven and nature sing,
   and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
   He comes to make His blessings flow
   far as the curse is found,
   far as the curse is found.

4. 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.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)
MUSIC: George Frederick Handel; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836
ANTIOCH
CM with repeat
Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight.
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;
   Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläf, ein - sam wacht

round yon vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ry streams from heav-en a - far, heaven-ly hosts sing “Al - le - lu - ia,
ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King;
nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be im lock - i - gen Haar,

sleep in heav-en - ly peace, sleep in heav-en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.”
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh', schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh!”

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John Freeman Young (st. 1, 3), 1863; tr. Anonymous (st. 2, 4)  
MUSIC: Franz Grüber, 1818