

*St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
November 27, 2022*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG

"This is the Day"

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from In Light & Darknes

Come to worship, all who seek and search for truth and justice.

The light will guide your way to wisdom.

Come to worship, all who wonder, and wait for Jesus.

The light will show you the way.

Come to worship, to find comfort, rest, and peace.

God is in the shadows, find peace under God's wings.

Come to worship, all who seek safety from scary things.

God is in the hiding places, and the darkness is safe.

We gather to worship in light and in darkness.

God is here among us. Let us worship!

*** HYMN #723 (insert)**

"Canticle of the Turning"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Matthew, Britlyn, and Renton Denni:

(All): Come, hope of heaven! We lift up our heads with expectation. Where will we find you today?

Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, we find hope in the world you have created for us, hope in the sunlight that energizes life on our planet, hope in the moon that directs the tides and brightens the night, hope in the stars that direct weary travelers, hope in the night that gives us all rest. When we begin to feel hopeless and helpless, remind us of the lights guiding our path and the darkness shielding our sleep. We choose hope in the name of the One who was and is and is to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from In Light & Darknes

Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, we humble ourselves to pray. You created us to be reflections of your love and justice, but we often reflect our own fears and prejudices. Forgive us, God. If we are mirrors of your great brilliance, help us sparkle when the world is gray. Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from In Light & Darkness

God is faithful to turn us around and place us on healthy paths when we acknowledge our unloving and unjust selves. Rest in the assurance you are forgiven, loved, and ready to begin again.

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship

**Hope in the God who reigns above,
who holds us all in steadfast love;
whose spirit blows across the earth,
preparing us for second birth.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from In Light & Darkness

Light of the World and Shadow of Safety, we bring our humble offerings to you, knowing to you belong the lights sustaining us and the vastness of the universe surrounding us. Take our offerings of time and treasure and multiply them among us. Guide us to use these gifts with wisdom and cleverness to the glory of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

***HYMN #427**

"We've a Story to Tell"

***AFFIRMATION OF HOPE**

from In Light & Darkness (on screen)

***COMMISSION & BLESSING**

from In Light & Darkness

Siblings in Christ, do not be afraid of the light or darkness.

Go into the world and bring light to the lost and darkness to the weary.

Receive this blessing:

May you find hope in the sunrise and comfort in the sunset.

**May you be beacons of light and shelters of warmth
for the travelers surrounding you.**

May you remember the hope of Christ lives in you. Amen.

POSTLUDE (seated)

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" and play area in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Activity bags are also available. See the deacon for assistance.

Please join us for coffee hour after worship!

Birthdays this week: 11/27 Eileen Shaffer; 11/29 John Widmann, Jr., Ann Aldrich and Douglas Rebok; 11/30 Madison Tucker; 12/3 Jeanne Welch

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	
Deacon in Charge	Allen Frantz
Lector	Henry Hopper
Media Coordinators	Scott and Ginny Cairns
Bulletin cover	John (traqair57) on Flickr

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given by the Glory of God.

St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

NEWS IN THE PEWS NOVEMBER 27, 2022

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Gloria & Gary Crum, Tim Long, Music Directors
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday, November 28

6:00 pm Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 29

5:30 pm Yoga Class – Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Cub Scouts – Room 116

7:15 pm Amistad Praise Band Practice – Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 1

9:45 am Moms Group – Parlor

10:00 am Bible Study Room 111

6:00 pm Bell Practice

7:15 pm Choir Practice

Friday, December 2

Angel Tree Gifts are due in the Church Office

Saturday, December 3

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Cookie Walk – Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm – Evening with Elvis – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Advent, December 4

9:00 am Adult Sunday School Room 116 and Zoom

9:00 am Spark Elementary School Class – Room 204

9:00 am Teen Discussion Class – Room 206

9:00 am Godly Play Room 119

10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

10:00 am Dedication of Angel Tree Gifts during Service - Sanctuary

11:00 am Praise Band Practice – Sanctuary

2:00 pm – Youth Caroling and Meal – Fellowship Hall

November First Fruits Heifer International has worked to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities they serve for 75 years. Their program support entrepreneurs around the world creating lasting change from the ground up. They work in 21 countries around the world, including the United States. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generations of leaders. Each next generation of animal is then shared, along with training, with another family. And, so the gift keeps giving. St. John's U.C.C. Youth want to be a part of this life changing work.

December First Fruits Our first Fruits for December is the Angel tree. Please consider brightening Christmas morning for kids right here in Franklin County! Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. Once a child or senior adult has been registered and accepted as an Angel their Christmas wish list is shared with donors in your community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. The gifts are distributed to the family to place under their family Christmas tree. The gift tags are on the tree and the gifts should be brought to St Johns for dedication by Friday, December 2nd.

Youth Caroling Sunday, December 4, see Roxanne to sign up.

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the following dates: 12/11 and 12/18. Sign up today!

Pointsettias orders for Christmas Eve are due in the church office by December 5.

The 2023 Flower Schedule for flowers at the foot of the cross is now available.

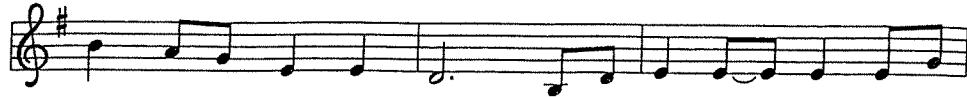
Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 3, from 9 am to 12 pm in Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from this event will go to support homeless children in the Chambersburg Area School District (CASD). Bakers are needed! Bake your favorite holiday cookies, make your signature candy, and share the recipe to benefit a good cause. Please provide 8-10 dozen of each cookie. Sign up in the lobby! Questions? Contact Roxanne Davenport or Harold Collier.

Evening with Elvis featuring Taylor Brown and special act Country Dan & the Sidewinders will be Saturday, December 3, from 6-8 pm. Cost is \$25 at the door; light refreshments will also be provided. Net proceeds will be used to provide "power packs" which are weekend backpacks of food for children in need at Falling Spring Elementary School. We hope you'll come to share in music and fellowship, and support this great cause.

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



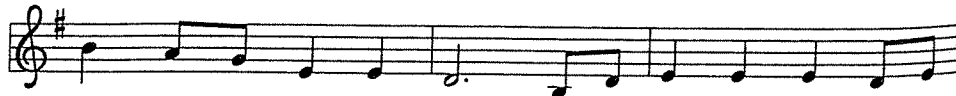
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.