



Celebrate Advent

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

Welcome

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

Gathering Music and Centering Prayer

Steve Milloy, piano

“Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us” -*Philipp Nicolai/J.S. Bach, arr. Gilbert M. Martin*

“A Nativity Prayer” -*Phillips Brooks and William Davie Young*

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

Greeting & Prayer

Richard Robbins, guest speaker

One: Good morning and a blessed Advent to you!

All: A blessed Advent to you also!

One: We are an inclusive Church that extends love and extravagant welcome.

All: No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey you are welcome here!

One: Holy One, we gather in this sacred place to draw near to you.

To remember to love others as we love ourselves.

To slow down during this Advent season, to wait, prepare our hearts, and ponder, as Mary did, all that you have given to us through the Christ child.

All: Help us to take hold of hope as we seek to follow Christ. Amen.

Advent Hymn

Jennie Malone, soloist

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” -*Tune: HYFRYDOL*

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.
By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

The Candles of Advent – Hope

Lonnie Fields

Today is the beginning of Advent – the preparation time for celebrating Christ’s birth. We are here because the Holy One’s promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. This promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst. The Holy One will keep the promise to come again in glory.

We light the candle to proclaim the coming of the Holy Light into the world. With the coming of this Light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. The Holy One wants us to work for good in this world.

Singing Response

Jennie Malone, soloist

“Shine On Us” *Tune: PICARDY*

Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom’s glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light...

Community Prayer

Richard Robbins

Ignite Moment

Anthony Palm

Ignite Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion 2022

Instrumental

Steve Milloy, piano

“Creator of the Stars of Night” -*Sarum Plainsong, arr. Ryan H. Jones*

Isaiah 64.1-9

Lonnie Fields

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would shake before you! As fire kindles the brushwood and the fire makes water boil, make your Name known to your adversaries, and let the nations tremble before you! When you did awesome things that we could not have expected, you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence! From ages past no ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen any God but you intervening for those who wait for you! Oh, that you would find us doing right, that we would be mindful of you in our ways! You are angry because we are sinful; we sinned for so long—how can we be saved? All of us became unclean and soiled, even our good deeds are polluted. We have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. No one calls upon your Name, there is none who clings to you, for you hid your face from us and delivered us into the hands of our sins. Yet you are our mother and father, YHWH; we are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands. Don’t let your anger go beyond measure, O God, don’t remember our sins forever, for we are all your people.

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“TAKE HOLD OF HOPE!”

Richard Robbins

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, soloist

“Stained Glass” -*Joseph M. Martin and Heather Sorenson*
Steve Milloy, piano

Mission Moment

Lonnie Fields

The Christmas Fund special mission offering will be received during the month of December.

Generous Giving

God has given each of us skills, talents, and abilities. Consider the impact that you can make through the ministry of St. John Church when your giving matches the mission. Not only do we sustain ministry locally and globally, but we also experience spiritual renewal in ourselves which can bring about transformation in the church and the community beyond for the common good. As you offer your time, talents, and treasures, may God continue to bless you as you open your lives to generous giving.

As you leave today, please keep your masks on and observe distancing. Wait to greet one another until you have exited the Church house.

Offering plates, in which you may place your financial gifts, are in the worship space at the front by the door on the right, and in the back by the Fairfield Avenue door.

Closing Song

Jennie Malone, soloist

“People, Look East”

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest is on the way.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Richard Robbins

One: May the living Christ go with you,
before you to light the way,
behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
beneath you to sustain you,
above you to watch over you,
and within you to give you peace.

All: Amen!

Parting Music

Jennie Malone, soloist

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” -*Phillip Nicolai, arr. Zach Unke*
Steve Milloy, piano

Welcome to St. John Church!

For more information about St. John Church go to: www.StJohnChurch.net.

To receive *The e-Weekly* let us know at Office@StJohnChurch.net.

To meet with the Pastor call: 859.261.2066, ext.202; email: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net.

Contact Tracing Information

In an effort to keep everyone healthy, contact the Church office at 859.261.2066 ext. 201 or Office@StJohnChurch.net if you are diagnosed with COVID after this service.

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Take the Survey for a Safe Christmas Eve Service

The Reforming Team is looking at how St. John can provide a welcoming, joyful, and safe Christmas Eve worship service, December 24th @ 9pm. It is typically a well-attended service, but with CDC social distancing recommendations still in place it will present a number of challenges regarding available seating. It will be very helpful for our planning if you could let us know whether you plan on attending and whether you will be bringing guests.

To that end, as you solidify your plans for the holiday, please visit

<https://stjohnchurch.net/christmas-eve-worship-attendance-survey/>



2021 Christmas Memorials & Honorariums

Donate \$15 (or more) in honor or memory of a loved one. Your donation will make it possible for the church to be decorated with poinsettia plants and other seasonal trimmings for the Christmas season. To order, please contact Pat Giglia at 513-262-8716 or use a paper form from the welcome table in the rear of the sanctuary