



Celebrate Advent

December 5, 2021

Second 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 & Centering Prayer

Jennie Malone, vocal; Steve Milloy, piano

“Come, Emmanuel” -arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

“A Nativity Prayer” -Phillips Brooks and William David 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

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor & teacher

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 Peace as we seek to follow Christ. Amen.

Advent Hymn

“All Earth Is Waiting” -Tune: TAULE

Jennie Malone, soloist

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,

“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”:

One whose name is “God with us,” our Savior shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more with in our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
yet feel that presence throughout the earth today,
For Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving Christ bring us liberty.

The Candles of Advent – Peace

Bill Machuga

We gather around the Advent candles today knowing that we are not perfect – that we all make mistakes and do bad things. Only Jesus obeyed God fully. Jesus helps us to live as God wants us to live. Jesus gives us peace.

We light the candles to proclaim the coming of the Holy Light into the world. With the coming of this Light there is peace, for Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.” Christ’s name is also Emmanuel, “God with us.” The presence of Christ with us gives us peace day by day.

Singing Response

“Shine On Us” *Tune: PICARDY*

Jennie Malone, soloist

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

Keith M. Haithcock

Instrumental

“At Peace” -*John Turner*

Steve Milloy, piano

Isaiah 40.1-11

Bill Machuga

“Console my people, give them comfort,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem’s heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended, that its iniquity is atoned for, that it has received from Yhwh’s hand double punishment for all its sins.”

A voice cries out, “Clear a path through the wilderness for Yhwh! Make a straight road through the desert for our God! Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley! Then the glory of Yhwh will be revealed, and all humankind will see it.” The mouth of Yhwh Has spoken!

A voice commands, “Cry out!” and I answer, “What will I say?” —“All flesh is grass and its beauty is like the wildflowers: the grass withers and the flower wilts when the breath of Yhwh blows on them. How the people are like grass! Grass withers, and flowers wilt, but the promise of our God will stand forever.”

Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion! Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem! Shout without fear, and say to the towns of Judah “Here is your God!” Yhwh, O Sovereign One, you come with power, and rule with a strong arm! You bring your reward with you, and your reparation comes before you. Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

2 Peter 3.8-15a

This point must not be overlooked, dear friends: in the eyes of the Most High, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. God does not delay in keeping the promise, as some mean “delay.” Rather, God shows you generous patience, desiring that no one perish but that all come to repentance.

The day of our God will come like a thief, and on that day the heavens will vanish with a roar; the elements will catch fire and fall apart, and the earth and all its works will be destroyed in the flames. Since everything is to be destroyed in this way, what holy and devoted lives you should lead! Look for the coming of the Day of God, and try to hasten it along. Because of it, the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt away in a blaze. But what we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to the promise, God’s justice will reside. So beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found at peace and without stain or defilement in God’s sight. Consider our God’s patience as your opportunity for salvation.

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 PEACE!”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

“Listen Here, Listen Here” -*Jay Althouse*

Jennie Malone, soloist

Ignite Moment

Ignite Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion 2022

Jan Hoeweler

Generous Giving

Bill Machuga

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.

Advent Holy Communion

Keith. M. Haithcock

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT CHRIST'S TABLE.

One: We say together...

All: Who is invited to Christ's table?

One: All are invited;
the young and the old,
the rich and the poor,
the lowest and the least;
sinners and saints together in communion.
Come find your place here where there are no strangers or foreigners,
only siblings in the sight of God.

All: Why do we give thanks at this table?

One: We give thanks because Jesus showed us the way,
we give thanks because Jesus is the Way.
Jesus was a gift from God for the world.
He was called Immanuel, "God with us".
He came to save us from our sins.
Jesus lived a life of thankfulness and gave his life as a sacrifice for many.
We give thanks that he is Messiah, Liberator, Christ, Anointed One of God.

All: Why do we eat and drink at this table?

One: We eat because on the night before Jesus died, he ate with his friends.
He gave them bread and said,
"This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
At that same meal he took a cup of wine and said,
"Drink this cup. This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

All: What do we remember at this table?

One: We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us.
We remember Jesus' life and his love.
We remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.
We remember the resurrection and the promise of life.
We remember that we are waiting in hope to see Jesus again.

One: Praying together we say:

**All: God of grace, thank you for this bread and wine,
and for the gift of your Child, Jesus.
God of hope, fill us with your Spirit today that we might have the wisdom to
understand the mystery of this table,
and the depth and height and breadth and length of your love for us.
Through this meal, strengthen us to be followers of Jesus,
a community of peace in a broken world. Amen.**

Sharing the Meal

Song

Jennie Malone, soloist

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” -*Bob McGee*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Unison Prayer

Jesus, you truly are Immanuel “God with us”.

In this season of Peace,

may the meal we`ve shared together nourish us to be your body in the world,
may your reign come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

With the angels in heaven we join in singing your praises,
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Closing Song

“People, Look East”

Jennie Malone, soloist

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.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Parting Music

Steve Milloy, piano

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” -*attributed to Jakob Hintze, arr. Mark Hayes*

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 office at 859.261.2066 ext. 201 or Office@StJohnChurch.net if you are diagnosed with COVID after this service.

Copyrights, Notes & Acknowledgments: All items are used with permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-712481.

Image *Longest Night* © Jan Richardson; **Centering Prayer** “A Nativity Prayer” music: Phillips Brooks, words: William David Young, ©1986 word music from *The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration* p.126; **Greeting** by Keith M. Haithcock; **Advent Hymn** “All Earth is Waiting” Words and Music ©1972 The Pastoral Musicians. English Translation ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; **Community Prayer** by Keith M. Haithcock; **Isaiah 40.1-11**; **2 Peter 3.8-15a** from *The Inclusive Bible* ©1996 by Priests for Equality; **Sermon** by Keith M. Haithcock; **Holy Communion** by Carol Penner, adapted by Keith M. Haithcock, **Song** “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” words/music: Bob McGee, ©1976 C.A Music, *Chalice Hymn* p.134; **Closing Song** “People, Look East” words: Eleanor Farjeon; ©1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc., *Chalice Hymn* p.142