



Celebrate Advent

December 12, 2021

Third 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

Jennie Malone, soloist

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” -*Basque melody, arr. Larry Shackley*

Theo Baldwin & Steve Phillips, piano duet

“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 love as we seek to follow Christ. Amen.

Advent Hymn

Jennie Malone, soloist

“In This Time of Advent Waiting” -*words: Keith M. Haithcock; Tune: REGENT SQUARE*

In this time of Advent waiting, We join hands in active hope.

Lighting candles, and confessing, Once again, God’s love; full scope.

Christ is coming; Christ is coming, Come, O Christ, in righteousness.

As we wait, prepare, and listen, May we hear your voice, O God.

See your paths and hear your teaching, Trusting as we journey on.

Christ is coming; Christ is coming, Come, O Christ, in righteousness.

As we move throughout the season Help us God to watch and wait.

Not for gifts of wealth or reason But your peace – hearts free of hate.

Christ is coming; Christ is coming, Come, O Christ, in righteousness.

Seeking all the paths of glory Knowing God’s full love is ours.

Sisters, brothers, God’s whole family Let us live in Love’s full power.

Christ is coming; Christ is coming, Come, O Christ, in righteousness.

The Candles of Advent – Love

Sue Jelinek

As we gather around the Advent candles today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy. Christmas is a time of worship – the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

We light the candles to proclaim the coming of the Holy Light into the world. With the coming of this Light there is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

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

Keith M. Haithcock

Instrumental

Steve Milloy, piano

“Longing for Messiah” -Mark Hayes

Luke 1.26-38 (Rise in body or spirit.)

Sue Jelinek

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!”

Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You’ll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus—‘Deliverance.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?”

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you—hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. “Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child

in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.” Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that, the angel left her.

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 LOVE!”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Jennie Malone, soloist

“Like a Child, I Wait” -*Ruth Elaine Schram*
with Berni Finfrock, flute

Ignite Moment

Sue Jelinek

Ignite Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion 2022

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

“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.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Send Out (Rise in body or spirit.)

Keith M. Haithcock

Parting Music

Eliza Palm, piano

“Do You Hear What I Hear” -arr. Tom Gerou

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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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.