



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

***Loving God,
Loving Neighbor;
Helping Our Neighbors to Love God***

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Bob Goossen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Drew, Janis, Hayden, Tanner,
& Morgan Lewis

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

Sorrow may last for a night but joy comes in the morning.

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

SONG

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vss 1, 2 & 3)

85

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Holy God, giver of all life's journeys

we thank you for this season of Advent

a time of drawing ever nearer to the manger.

Giver of Justice, you plant hope in our hearts

and reap a bumper crop;

you wipe away the tears from our eyes,

and anoint us with joy's oil.

Creator of Joy, with awe we bow before you

lifting our voices in songs of praise. Amen.

*CAROL "In the Bleak Midwinter"

144

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Servant of God: you bandage our souls as you take our wounds upon yourself; you set us free from sin, by being bound to the cross; you console the grieving, by carrying death to its resting place.

Spirit of Passion: when sin strips us of life, clothe us in salvation's finery; when we are defeated by the peddlers of fear, whisper the Good News to us; when we shiver in death's winter, wrap us in the shawl of hope.

Silence is kept...

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the Good News God speaks to you:

I love you...I forgive you...I restore you to new life.

ALL: We stand in the light of grace.

For God comes, not to condemn, but to comfort us;

not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us of hope, of peace of joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE "Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"

126

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:46b-55

CANTATA "We Call It Christmas Because of Jesus"

We Call It Christmas

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

When Love Was Born

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

God & Sinners Reconciled Underscore

Joy to the World

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

***CAROL** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (vss 2 & 3)

132

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** (vs 1)

110

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in Bethlehem skies.
See all Heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of Joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you,
A Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***POSTLUDE**



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday School

- No Children's Sunday School through December 31. Classes will resume on January 7, 2024!
- Adult class at 9am/ Discussing the book *Grace, More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*

Sunday, December 17–Cantata @10am

Sunday, December 17–Youth Group Christmas Caroling @3pm

Thursday, December 21–Choir practice @7pm

Sunday, December 24–10am service and 6pm service

Spread some Christmas cheer using our **Christmas Card Mailbox** in the Narthex. Please “mail” your cards according to the recipient's last name. Also, please try to limit your cards to people who regularly attend church services.

We thank all of the Cantata singers sharing their talents with us today!

Sunday, December 24 will feature two worship opportunities.

At 10:00AM we will light the fourth Advent Candle and worship with eyes peering toward Jesus' arrival, just around the corner. Everyone is encouraged to wear a favorite Christmas sweater or, perhaps, your Christmas pj's.

At our 6:00PM service we will light the Christ Candle as we worship with Carols & Candlelight. Both worship services will be 'child friendly.' Come to one or both as your hearts and life schedules lead.

On December 31, the **Seventh Day of Christmas**, we will enjoy scripture, stories and Christmas carols in a light and joy filled worship time.

Keep Them in Your Prayers: Donna Olexick, Rich Kerlin, Paul (Karen Keller's friend), Lynn Smith, Peter Kerlin, Marcia Davis, Jack Gennaro, Don Habedank (Shirley Fluharty's brother), Bernie Fedorka (Mark Douglass's friend), David Alexander (Shirley Fluharty's son-in-law), Tom Owczarzak, Paul Kulha

In the Military: Don Sanders, William Barth, Kelly Barth, Paul Hendrick

Those who are not able to worship regularly: Sarah Jane Shaffer, Dolores Skinner, Lois Davie, Willa Kocher, Maude Williams, Pat & Tony Wozniak, Roberta Smith, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Lois Dancer, Dorothy Elko, Irene Gartley, Martha Piroli, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Janice Adamski, Betty Solinski

Garden of Knowledge Library

As we expand our library, we have created an Amazon wish list that you may purchase books for our library. The books range in age from newborn to young adult. Here is a link to our wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11KT1O8IDN6AG/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

After a complete inventory of our Garden of Knowledge Library. We are missing some books, many were checked out prior to the pandemic. Please check your children's books at home and see if you have any from our library. You can return them to Christina Palmer. Thank you!