



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

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

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Bob Goossen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Jason, Gina, William, Andrew
Arzberger

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

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the silence to be broken,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

SONG

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vss 1-4) 85

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** (unison) Liturgist Chris Mathias

Year after year, Eternal One, we look heaven ward, listening for angels.

Year after year, we pray for peace when war surrounds.

Year after year, it happens, when we, when the world least expects it,
in the dark of night, in the chaos, surrounded by the lowliest

Love creeps in and is born to us.

Thank you God of love, Amen

***CAROL** "Angels We Have Heard on High" 113

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Holy Child, born of a singing mother, you come into the world and call us to sing...of the marvelous works that are to come...of the love in our hearts when we open them to each other...of the life you have come to pour into us.

But so often we do not sing. We do not even hum. Forgive our monotone lives, for seeing darkness instead of light, for hearing bad news rather than magnificent music, for living in dread rather than in delight. Redeem us, enliven us...give us hope in our lives, a song on our lips and joy in our hearts. Help us to sing...help us to find our tune in You.

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, of love. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***RESPONSE** "Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child" 126

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM "Celtic Noel"

CHILDREN'S CHAT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-38

SERMON "Peeking Around the Corner"

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THE CALL OF GOD

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

We believe in God in us:

Greater than any words or explanations

bigger than the universe and yet closer than each breath we take;
a part of every cell and sinew-all that sustains and gives us life.

We affirm God in us,

re-creating newness, justice and love.

We believe in God with us:
carried in the womb, growing in secret,
birthing in a stable so long ago; now with and walking beside us,
bread and wine, body and blood
nourishing and feeding our spirits and hearts.

We affirm God with us,
Christ born, living, dying and rising in love.

We believe in God under us,
grounding everything we do, comforting, stretching,
nurturing us as we grow, joining us one to another in
love and community.

We affirm God under us, the Spirit holding us together in love.
God in, with and under all.

***SONG** “Light of the World” by Lauren Daigle

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** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

121

***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**



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday School

- No Adult or Children's Sunday School. Classes will resume on January 7, 2024!

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

Wednesday, January 3–Story Time @10am

Sunday, January 7–Undecorating the church after worship

Tuesday, January 9–Deacons meeting @6:30

Tuesday, January 9–Session @7pm

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.

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

The church office will be closed December 25, 26 & January 1; We'll be here the 27th & 28th. No newsletter next week. Regular hours will resume on January 2, 2024. A big thank you to Nancy Connell for her administrative support throughout the year.

We thank those who are concluding their service in leadership as elders and deacons. Nancy Lucas and Charles Hendrick on session and Bev Abate, Peggy Franzese and Terri Owczarzak on the Board of Deacons. Well done good and faithful servants.

We welcome everyone to our worship service today. If you do not have a church home, we warmly invite you to explore growing in faith with the Ohio church family.

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, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Lois Dancer, Dorothy Elko, Irene Gartley, Martha Piroli, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Janice Adamski, Betty Solinski