

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Gary Wilner

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PRELUDE *“Once in Royal David’s City” and “From Heaven Above”* Gordon Young
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*“Welcome!
No Matter Who You are,
or Where You are on
Life’s Journey,
You are Welcome Here!!”*

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Leader: The joy of the season is upon us. The time is almost here.

People: We have gathered today to praise the Lord!

Leader: We are gathered to sing praises to God, the Holy One in whom we place our trust.

People: God opens our eyes and lifts us up

Leader: Let us praise God

People: who reigns forever.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

We gather, O God, in this sanctuary and in our own private worship space mindful of your presence.

We wait to see your glory. Help us proclaim the joy you promise.

In this hour of worship, we ask that you bless us through the inspiration of your Holy Spirit and through the stories of Christ’s ministry among us. Amen

OPENING HYMN

“Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn”
#107 NCH Marty Haugen

**1 Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.**

**2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll
to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**3 In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.**

**4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Kirk and Nancy Rodman

BAPTISM OF CHARLES FRANCIS CARL

Pastor Gary for the greater church and
Byrl Buddenhagen for the local church

He is the Son of Rachel Carl and

- Grandson of Butch & Kathy_Carl
- Sponsors for Charles are:
 - Older sister: Nicole Carl from Eau Claire
 - Younger sister Hillary Carl from Chippewa Falls
 - “Very close friends” Ryan and Katie Ybarra
from Milwaukee

HYMN “Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

Frances R. Havergal

**1 Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my spirit, let it move
at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose.**

**3 Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place.**

**4 Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's community.**

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Reader- JoAnn Voss

New Testament –

Luke 1: 39-56, James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

The first reading this morning is from Luke 1
verses 39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she

entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

And Mary said: (*The following portion of this reading in Luke is known as “Mary’s Song” or the “Magnificat”*)

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The second reading is James 5 verses 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of

suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. The final reading this morning is from Matthew 11 verses 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

PASTORAL, SILENT, 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We present to you, O God, our gifts of time, talent and treasure. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of people where hope is scarce. May our gifts be a reminder, to those who receive them, of your love and fill their hearts with JOY. Amen

SERMON:

"JOY is Here! JOY is Coming!" Pastor Gary

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG *"Mary Did You Know"*

Kelly and Steven Brumm

JOYS AND CONCERNS

POSTLUDE



WELCOME

**We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us
in-person, through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call,
seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM**

Youtube link for December 11, 2022
https://youtu.be/HN5NljQ_aOA

**This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by Berdella Carl and
Roger Carl in loving memory of
the Carl and Seelow families.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tuesday, December 13th –
1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14th Street
*every week at Marge Goetsch's home
3:30 PM – Deacon's Meeting**



Last chance to order poinsettias for our church's Christmas Eve Services. We will be placing our order with Falls Florist and would like the orders in by **December 10th**.

You can choose between red and white poinsettias. The price is \$15.00, and they can be ordered in honor, or in memory or for any other reason you may have. There will be order forms available in the narthex and church office.



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

"Overwhelmed with joy!" Matthew 2:10
Suggested offering date December 18, 2022

*Focus on Christ
this Season*



Christmas Day –

Sunday, December 25th

No In-person worship. The service will be brought to you via YouTube.

We are doing this to make the service available when you return home from your visits or when your visitors leave.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Please make your checks out to Neillsville – UCC and note "Christmas Fund" in the memo area of check. Thank you!

REMINDER December Meal Give-Away
Sunday, December 18, 2022
11:00 - 11:15 AM – curbside pick-up