

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Children's Christmas Program

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**PRELUDE** "Forest Green" English Folk Tune  
"Christmas is Here" French Carol  
both by Dale Wood 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!!"*

**WELCOME SONG** (tune Happy Birthday)  
Younger kids (3K – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Maddie Barth & Jake Clarkson**

Maddie: We look for an extraordinary sign of hope for our world but God's sign is most ordinary of all.

**All: A young woman is with child.**

Maddie: We look to power for strength in our world but God points to the most vulnerable.

**All: She gives birth.**

Jake: We look far and wide for a key to God's mystery, but God points us home:

**All: She calls this child Immanuel: God-with-us!**

Jake: Let us rejoice, and worship our God in our ordinary, vulnerable lives.

**All: God-with-us!**

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION Jake Clarkson

(Unison)

**Surprising God, you make your presence known in unexpected ways, and challenge our comfortable assumptions about how you work.**

**Meet us here today and open our hearts to recognize you in our midst calling us to live into your new world: a world where your love takes shape in justice and peace. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**Kyson Erickson, Tyler Williams, William Ziegler, and Lexi Woods**

Kyson: Love. Everything begins with Love.

**Many: From the beginning of creation to the end of time, God's love colors everything.**

Kyson: Open your hearts to love and you will recognize hope shining in the most ancient of promises.

(The candle of Hope is lit)

Tyler: Love. Everything continues with Love.

**Many: From strangers across oceans to neighbors next door, God's love dwells in everything.**

Tyler: Live love as a way of being and you will see peace shining in each and every face that images beloved.

(The candle of Peace is lit)

William: Love. Everything ends with Love.

**Many: From the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight, God's love flows through everything.**

William: Give love with open hands and you will find joy shining in the surprises that undo us and transform us.

(The candle of Joy is lit)

Lexi: Love. Everything leans toward Love.

**Many: From the greatest ruler to the tiniest baby, God's love changes everything.**

Lexi: Prepare the way for love and you will find love shining in each and every breath that whispers: Emmanuel.

(The candle of Love is lit)

Lexi: Please join us in singing the Advent song printed in your bulletin.

**Shine a candle in the darkness, breathe new love into our lives.**

**Wind your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.**

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**Wind your blessed peace around us.**

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**Wind your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.**

### READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

#### Luke 2:1

Lexi Bergemann

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

#### Luke 2: 8-1

Kalvin Heck

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel

said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

### **"CHRISTMAS TREE"** (w/Reese Ziegler helping)

**C** is for the Christ-Child, the blessed baby boy—  
**Jocelyn Vine**

**H** is for the Happiness that we enjoy this day—  
**Layne Woods**

**R** is for the Royalty of Christ, the little child—  
**Wyatt Stalsberg**

**I** is for the Inn that had no room for him—  
**Liliana Stalsberg**

**S** is for the Shepherd that came to worship him—  
**Sawyer Stalsberg**

**T** is for the Three wise men that came to worship him—  
**Theamore Vine**

**M** is for Mary his mother— **Zoey Langreck**

**A** is for Angels who sang "Glory to God"—  
**Lars Woods**

**S** is for the star which guided the Wise Men—  
**Claire Ziegler**

**T** is for the Tinsel as it sparkles in the light; like the stars in the sky that first Christmas night—  
**Morgan Erickson**

**R** is for Radiance it shines from each face; for all share God's gifts to the whole human race—  
**Morgan Erickson**

**E** Every word of God is pure—**Sophie Heck**

**E** Even a child may find a way to tell God's love on God's birthday—  
**Sophie Heck**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

Younger kids (3K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders)

### PRAYER

Pastor Gary

#### Responsive Portion of Prayer

Pastor: God, our shepherd – Restorer of our souls,  
In a world full of hopelessness, We have sometimes forgotten that you have shown your hope in endless ways.

**Many: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your hope.**

In the mirey mess of the world, We have sometimes neglected to lean into your peace that transcends comprehension.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your peace.**

In a culture shrouded in doom and despair, We have often forgotten how to fight for our joy.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your joy.**

In a moment when it is easier to hate others because they believe differently, love differently, live differently, vote differently – we have forgotten how to love beyond the bounds of what separates us.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may know your love.**

**Stimulate our memory, O divine Creator.**

**Remind us that even in our weakness, you are mighty.**

#### THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US

**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**

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CAROL

(Everyone please stand and sing with your outside voices)

*"Joy to the World"*

Isaac Watts

#132 NCH

**1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth its praises bring;  
Let every heart prepare Christ room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
The glories of God's righteousness  
and wonders of God's love,  
and wonders of God's love,  
and wonders, wonders of God's love.**

### 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 18, 2022  
<https://youtu.be/YrXhsD0I6Bg>

This week's radio broadcast  
is sponsored by Pat Acheson and  
Herman Seebandt In recognition  
of our "faithful listeners".

## Christmas Day –

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY, December 18<sup>th</sup> –**

After worship – Christian Education Comm.,  
Parents and Children invite you to join them for refreshments in fellowship hall.

**Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> –**

9 AM - Card Making

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> –**

1 PM – Bible Study – 510 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street

\*every week at Marge Goetsch's home

5 PM – Trustees Meeting

7:30 PM – Leadership Council Meeting



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