

Third Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program - December 17, 2023
United Church of Christ, Neillsville
Pastor Sue Vornholt

All music in this service copied and streamed under
OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

PRELUDE "O' Come Little Children"
Diane Bish Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG "O Come All Ye Faithful!" John F. Wade

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

3 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Maddie Barth, Lexi Bergemann, Lexi Woods
& Jake Clarkson

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

Congregation: A young woman is with child.

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

Congregation: She gives birth.

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

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

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

Congregation: God-with-us!

Jake: Please join us in our prayer of invocation.
(Said by all the congregation in Unison)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (All)

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!

PASSING OF THE PEACE Pastor Sue
All are invited to greet one another with such words as
"The peace of Christ be with you, and the response:
"And also with you."

PRAISE RESPONSE "Gloria Canon" sung twice
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE, PEACE, JOY CANDLE
Claire Ziegler, Morgan Erickson, Sophie Heck

Claire: Love. Everything begins with Love.

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

Claire: Open your hearts to love and you will recognize
hope shining in the most ancient of promises.
(The candle of Hope is lit)

Morgan: Love. Everything continues with Love.

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

Morgan: 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)

Sophie: Love. Everything ends with Love.

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

Sophie: 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)

Sophie: Please join us in singing the Advent song printed on the screen.

SONG O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

PROGRAM SCRIPTURES

Intro—Kalvin Heck

On one special night, so many years ago, people rejoiced that Jesus had come into their world. Even though we can't see or touch Jesus, he is still in our world today, right with us. Jesus loves you and has chosen you to be his children. This is the story of how Jesus was born.

Part 1—from Luke chapter 1

A young woman named Mary was alone one day. The Angel Gabriel suddenly appeared right in front of her. "Do not be afraid." Said the Angel. "God is pleased with you! Soon you will have a baby boy. His name will be Jesus. He will save God's people from their sins." "But how can this be?" Mary asked. "I can't have a baby if I'm not married." "God has a plan," Gabriel answered. "You will become pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. With God, nothing is impossible." Mary could not believe what she heard, but she trusted God. "I will do whatever God wants," she said. And soon, Mary met and became engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY Part 1: from Luke 1

SONG "What Child is This?" (Verses 1 & 3)—

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus - This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Part 2—from Luke chapter 2 and Matthew 1 & 2
The Emperor wanted to know how many people lived in his land. He had everyone go to their hometowns to be counted. It was nighttime when Mary & Joseph got to Bethlehem. The little town was full of people. Every room at the inn was taken and the only place left for Mary & Joseph was a stable full of animals.

SONG "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Verses 1 & 2)—

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see you lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark streets shines forth
the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in you tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing, and voices ring
with peace to all on earth.

Part 3—continuation of part 2

There in the stable Joseph made a bed for Mary in the hay. Little did the world know the coolest, most awesome & amazing part of God's plan was happening! Jesus was ready to be born.

SONG "Silent Night" (Verse 1 & 2)

Children sing verse 1

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Congregation sings Verse 2

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

CELLO SOLO: Silent Night by Jonathan Clarkson

Part 3—continued

So there in the stillness of the night he came. Jesus was born! Jesus the one who would save the world from sin. Mary wrapped her new baby in soft clothes & laid him on some fresh hay in the animals feeding box called a manger.

SONG “Away in a Manger” (Verse 1 & 2 & 3)—

Children sing verse 1

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Congregation Verse 2 & 3

**2 The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle until morning is nigh.**

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with thee there
and take us to heaven to live with thee there.**

Part 4—from Luke chapter 2 verses 10-12

Meanwhile, that night, in the fields near Bethlehem there were some shepherds guarding their sheep. All at once a very bright light flashed in the sky. This frightened the shepherds. Then many angels appeared. An angel said, “Don’t be scared! I have wonderful news for you! Today in Bethlehem, a savior has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is because you will find a baby dressed in soft clothes lying in a manger.”

SONG “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (Verse 1 & 2)—

Congregation

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!”**

**Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]**

Part 4—continued

“Wow! That’s Amazing!” The shepherds cheered! As soon as they found Jesus in Bethlehem they knelt down and worshiped him. Then they went out and spread the news about what the angels had told them. The Savior had come. “He’s here, he’s here!” They shouted.

SONG “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (Verse 1 & 2)

Children sing verse 1

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

Congregation verse 2

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. [Refrain]**

Part 5—from Matthew chapter 2

In the far east (that’s land over by China) some wiseman saw a very bright star in the night sky. “It’s a sign from God!” they thought. The wisemen followed the star on a very long journey to search for the new king of kings. The star led the wisemen to Bethlehem. There they found Jesus and his family in the stable. The wisemen brought Jesus gifts fit for a king: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

SONG “We Three Kings” (Verse 1 & 2)

Congregation

**1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]**

Conclusion—Kalvin Heck

So, you see, Jesus gave up the comfort of heaven to be born in a dirty stable. His parents were ordinary people who loved God. Jesus gave up his heavenly riches and became poor so we could have the best riches of all. Jesus gives us something better than all gold and diamonds in the world. Jesus gave us the gift of being able to live our lives believing in him. That way we can someday live in heaven with Jesus forever!

MORNING PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication

SONG “Joy to the World” (Verse 1 & 2)

ALL

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n 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.**

POSTLUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

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

**This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by “a faithful listener”.**

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.

YouTube link for Sunday, December 17, 2023

<https://youtube.com/live/kl56213-2lk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 17th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – Janice Miller

Greeter(s) – Joe & Michelle Kranz

Usher(s) – Hap Eddy, Roger Carl

Tuesday, December 19th –

- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –

*now meeting in the lounge of church

- 5 PM Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, December 20th –

- 5 PM Council Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up sheet is temporarily in the church office.
Dec 17 – Christian Ed.
Dec 24 – no morning service
Dec 31 - Sharon Buddenhagen
Jan 7 – Carole Romens