

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE *“O Come, Little Children”*

Traditional Carol arr. Diane Bish Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF CENTERING

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

Jocelyn Vine, Morgan Erickson, Haddie Mathis

... God, let us be people who see the joy all around us, and can also bring joy to all around us— in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world.

ALL: On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.

HYMN *“When God is a Child”* Brian Wren

#165 W&R verse 1-3

Refrain:

**When God is a child there’s joy in our song,
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

**1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright. [Refrain]**

**2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth. [Refrain]**

**3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Savior is born. [Refrain]**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God’s works.

Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

**Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,
for great is the Holy One in our midst,
blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.**

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Holy God, As the memories of happiness sweep back into our minds, we delight in the Advent blessing of joy. We delight in the energy of our youth and take pleasure in hearing the nativity story anew through the children’s eyes. We celebrate together, rejoicing in the season, and knowing the best is yet to come. Amen.

HYMN *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

#89 Red UCC

**1 O come, all you 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 heaven 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 given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share with one another signs of hope, peace, joy and love.

One: May the Joy of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with words such as *“May the Joy of Christ be with you,”* and the response: *“And also with you”*.

PRAISE RESPONSE: *“Glory to God”*

#756 NCH (sing twice)

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Confirmands - Lexi Bergemann, Kyson Erickson,
Kalvin Heck, Tyler Williams, Lexi Woods,
William Ziegler

Fourth – Sixth Grade – Morgan Erickson, Sophie
Heck, Ben Mathis, Layne Woods, Claire Ziegler

Pre-K – Third Grade – Emilia Mathis, Haddie Mathis,
Millie Mathis, Jocelyn Vine, Theamore Vine,
Lars Woods

SCRIPTURES

SCENE 1: *Mary & Angel Gabriel*

SONG *“What Child is This?”*

#148 NCH (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?
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 Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild,
Has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

SCENE 2: *Joseph*

SONG *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

#99 Red UCC (Verses 1 & 2)

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee 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 to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

SCENE 2 (cont): *Innkeeper*

SONG *“Silent Night”*

#95 Red (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 joins 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!

SONG *“Away in a Manger”*

#124 NCH 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; protect me, I pray,
and stay by my side until night turns to day.

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

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Pastor Julie

Offertory *“Mary, Did You Know?”*

Doxology: *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*

#128 verse 4

What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what can I offer: all my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous and Loving God, We give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love. We give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with peace. We give of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world with hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, creating your Realm here on earth. Amen.

SCENE 3: Shepherds & Angels

SONG "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" #94 Red (Verse 1 & 2)

Congregation

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye 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 beyond him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

... Then we went back to our sheep and thanked God for all we saw and heard.

SONG "Go Tell it on the Mountain" #105 Red (Verse 1 & 2)

Children sing verse 1

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills 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]

SCENE 4: Magi

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

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

HYMN "Joy to the World"

#313 Red verses 1-2

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him 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 men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Joy to the World"

#313 Red verse 3

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
anonymously by a faithful listener.

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us on site,
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 15, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/-c3z-wWMPkk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 15th –

- 10 AM Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker
Greeter(s) – Kirk & Nancy Rodman
Usher(s) – Mickey Marty, Joel Raine
PowerPoint – Emile Miller

Today Meal Give Away – after worship Dec. 15th

Monday, December 16th –

- 9 AM Card Making

Tuesday, December 17th –

- 1 PM Bible Study
- 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting

Thursday, December 19th -

- 5:30 PM Council Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Dec 15 – Christian Ed
Dec 22 – Voss'
Dec 29 –
Jan 5 -

We need people to sign up



on Tuesday,
December 24th
- 4:30 and
8:30 services
Candlelight
service with
communion
served