



Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Morning

A Caroling Service

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Jackie Mueller, Cindy Sohn Advent Candle Lighter and Reader
Jackie Mueller, Worship Leader
Randy Sohn, Organist

Isaiah 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

♪ O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Hymnal #88, vs 1

Prayer:

Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Light the Advent Candles

Today, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:1-20 ESV

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

♪ **Mary Did You Know**

Katie and Daniel Kleinhans

♪ **O Little Town Of Bethlehem**

Hymnal #108, vs 1-2

♪ **Away In A Manger**

Hymnal #109, vs 1-2

♪ **It Came Upon A Midnight Clear**

Hymnal #107, vs 1-2

♪ **While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks**

Hymnal #106, vs 1-2

♪ **Angels We Have Heard On High**

Hymnal #105, vs 1-2

♪ **What Child Is This**

**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.**

**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.**

♪ **O Come All Ye Faithful**

Hymnal #112, vs 1-2

♪ **Joy To The World**

Hymnal #120, vs 1-2

Offering:

The offering will be made as ushers bring the offering plates to you.

St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless these gifts, that they may be the grace of God for a community in need; that they may be the Spirit of peace for a world at war with itself. Bring your peace into our darkness, and flow through our lands with your glorious love. Amen.

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.*

Sending Forth Prayer:

The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We are that people. Christ is that light.

For a child has been born for us. God's own Son has been given unto us.

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace through his glorious reign.

Let the trees of the forest shout for joy!

Let heaven and nature sing!

♪ Silent Night

Hymnal #101, vs 1, 4

Postlude:

Behold, the Morning Star



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE:


4:00pm-Worship Service with Communion at St. Mark's

7:00pm -Worship Service with Communion at St. Mark's

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, CHRISTMAS DAY:

10:00am-Worship Service with Communion at St. James

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

~Sunday School meets 9-10am at both churches~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.



***Poinsettias shared in love
with our church family this Christmas:***

Heidi & Clarence Belitz, in memory of our parents.

Sheila & Brian Hemb, in memory of my parents Lionel & Joan Hellmer.

David & Tanya Boman and family, in memory of Dad, Myron Sohn.

David & Tanya Boman, for the joy of grandchildren, AJ and Aubrey.

Pat Kleinhans, for the joy of Life, Laughter, Love.

Charles & Ruth Ann Kolb, for the joy of Christ's birth.

Sue, Cindy, Sandy and Families, in memory of Alvin & Loretta Kracht.

The Krause Family, in memory of Dolores Krause.

*Julianne Luebke; Keith, Michelle & Brad Mauk; Katelynn & Rowan Sibley,
in memory of David Luebke.*

The Lutzes, for the Joy of Christmas.

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*Dorothy Mueller, in memory of my siblings Eugene, LaVerne, Henry, Marie
and twin Donald.*

*Dorothy Mueller, in honor of our forefathers who had the foresight to donate land
for St. James. Thus, we celebrate 160 years.*

*Jackie & Dave Mueller, Cody, Lexi, Cheyenne & Ben,
in memory of my parents, Ilene & Leroy Stock.*

Tom & Nancy Nye, in loving memory of Melvin & Violet Seifert.

Tom & Nancy Nye, in loving memory of Addison Emilie Nye.

Tammy Serketich, for the joy of Ella, Ezra & Cole.

Carlene Sohn in memory of Myron Sohn.

*Carlene Sohn & Family, in memory of Elmer & Leona Sohn and
Carl & Elmyra Ohlrogge.*

Randy & Cindy Sohn, Katie & Daniel, Dan & Rachel, in memory of Myron Sohn.

*Randy & Cindy Sohn, Katie & Daniel, Dan & Rachel,
in memory of Kenneth & Virginia Kuether.*

*Dale & Doris Sprenger, in honor of Children, Grandchildren
and Great Granddaughter.*

*Dale & Doris Sprenger, in memory of
brother & sister-in-law, Allen & Katherine Gabsch,
brothers-in-law, Edward Kretsch and David Luebke,
nephew, Larry Kretsch.*

Allen & Eunice Stolzmann, for the joy of our Family.

Ellen Mae Surfus, in memory of Bill Surfus and Arthur & Hertha Lorfeld.

Tom Urness & family, in memory of Jill Urness.

Mary Ann Vogel, in memory of Wayne Vogel and Walter & Orvilla Stoeckigt.





Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*December 24th – Jenny Riesterer, Lee Sixel
25th – Raymond Henschel, Noel Wippermann
27th – Ethen Lutzke
28th – Tim Russart*

ANNIVERSARY:

December 28th – Mike & Amy Summers



December 27th is the deadline for making a contribution to St. James/St. Mark's UCC to have it recorded for 2023.

INFORMATION FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT is due to Karen:

St. Mark's-Jan. 2nd

St. James-Jan. 9th.

Email to stmstjoffice@gmail.com or drop off a copy at St. Mark's of what you want included.

WE NEED SAFE SANCTUARY HELPERS—an extra adult--to attend the high school youth group meetings. Please consider volunteering, it's a great way to get to know our wonderful HS youth!



SIGN UP FOR USHERING AT ST. MARK'S – either in the church entryway or online at: <https://bit.ly/usher2024>

TAKE THE POLAR PLUNGE WITH PASTOR PATRICK ~ CARE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS



Pastor Patrick is taking pledges for the *Polar Bear Plunge* in Sheboygan on Jan. 1st, 2024 at 1:00pm. The pledges will be used to reach his goal of making 100 Care Kits for the Homeless. You can pledge big for small as the Spirit leads you, either a flat donation or an incremental donation (ex., *I'll pledge \$2 for every 10 seconds you stay in; \$5 for 30 seconds; \$10 if you stay in the water for 1 min..*)

Sign up sheets are in the back of each church.

For more information contact Pastor Schultz at schultzpw@gmail.com, 920-693-8361, or Facebook messenger

HELP SUPPORT OUR 2024
MISSION TEAM AT...

Culver's SHARE NIGHT

Monday, Jan. 15th: 4pm. - 8pm.

Please present our share slip or mention our name (St. Mark's, St. James, & Immanuel U.C.C.) so that a % of all sales will go toward our mission trip to Elliot County, Kentucky.

Valid only at Culver's Hwy. 42!

Share Night Slips

Culver's

A portion of the sales raised from this slip will go to
(St Marks / St James U.C.C/ Immanuel Mission Trip)

Amount: \$ _____

No additional coupons or discounts to be applied. Good only on (January 15th). Valid only at Culver's on 4225 State HWY 42

Feel free to make extra copies and hand them out! ☺

The above sheet is a sample. The one to be turned in has to a full-size sheet. There are copies at church for you to take.