



**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

**St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Organist: Randy Sohn

Welcome to St. James!

We hope you are touched by the Spirit of God,  
and the Spirit of Christmas in our time together this morning.

Please join us Christmas morning for worship at 10:00am

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*Sussex Carol*

**Call to Worship: (responsively)**

L: Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

P: Come, hope, lift us from despair.

L: Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.

P: Come, love, shine in all we do.

L: Come, Jesus, be born in us.

P: Come, Lord, set us free.

L: Come, God,

P: Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!

**Opening Prayer: (all together)**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we declare our awe of you and our love for you, Lord Jesus. Open the eyes of our hearts to behold even more of your beauty; expand the chambers of our hearts to make even more room for your grace and glory. Free us to be generous and joyful as the Magi. Free us to love as you love us; to forgive as you have forgiven us; and to pursue others as you so faithfully seek us. In your trustworthy and worship-worthy name, *Amen.*

**Hymn of Praise: (#112 Hymnal)**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

**Advent Candle Lighting (The candle of Love)**

**Choir:**

Directed by Cindy Sohn

*Come, Emmanuel, Come*

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes.

This greatest gift of all came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of love.

Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of this truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus.

**Introduction of the Message:**

*The Birth of Jesus*

**Sandra Beiersdorf**

**Children's' Christmas Message:**

*The Birth of Jesus*

**~Written by Felicia Mollohan**

**Processional Hymn (please join us in singing):**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (#108 Hymnal, vs.1 & 2)

Poem: *Jesus was Born on Christmas*

**Congregation Hymn:** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (#107, Hymnal vs.1 & 2)

Children's Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

**Congregation Hymn:** *Joy to the World* (#120 Hymnal vs.1 & 2)

**Congregation Hymn:** *We Three Kings* (Insert)

Children's Song: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*

**Congregation Hymn:** *Silent Night* (#101 Hymnal, vs.1 & 2)

**The 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.*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

**Offertory Music:** *What Child Is This*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)**

Magnificent God, when we consider Mary, the mother of Jesus, we are reminded that you do great wonders and signs through the most humble and obedient of your children. As we give our gifts to you this day, give us ears to hear the whispers of the angels speaking to us; give us eyes to see the needy and the unloved all around us; and give us faith to offer our lives to your plan of saving love. In Christ, our redeemer, we pray. *Amen.*

**Hymn of Sending: (#8 Binder)** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

**Benediction:** ... To love and serve the Lord. *Amen.*

**Postlude** *Fling Wide the Door*

The character list for *The Birth of Jesus* is as follows:

Narrators and Wisemen - Everit Gumm and Williem Langenhahn

Mary - Clare Rosenbauer

Joseph and poem recitation - Parker Sprenger

Registrar, poem recitation and shepherd - Carson Russart

Innkeeper, poem recitation and shepherded - Wyatt Henschel

Main Angel and narrator - Emma Russart

Stars - Andrew Nye and Emmett Vogel

*Special thank you to Randy and Cindy Sohn for program music.*

*Special thank you to Amanda Russart, Henry Langenhahn Jr., Jamie Henschel and Sandy Beiersdorf for their time and commitment.*

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**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

All are welcome to join us for Worship Services! We offer Open Communion.

Programming we provide:

\*Sunday School for children of all ages

\*Confirmation classes

\*Youth program, including a summer volleyball league

\*Church choir

\*Mission outreach locally and beyond our Community

\*Bible Study/Study Groups

.....and more!

Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org) email: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com) phone: 920.693.8361

Send an email to be added to our prayer chain.

Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC



**Celebrations for this week & next:**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

- December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mike Scharl
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Jenny Riesterer, Lee Sixel
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Raymond Henschel, Noel Wippermann
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Ethen Lutzke
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Tim Russart
- 31<sup>st</sup> – McKenna Jo Fitzgerald, Galen LaDuke

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

- December 28<sup>th</sup> – Mike & Amy Summers
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Jeremy & Karie Ladwig

**LOOKING AHEAD.....**

**ST. MARK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM – TODAY – 5:00pm**

**ST. JAMES ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE – 6:30pm, Tues., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE – 7:00pm. Wed., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, Friday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>:**

Both Services at St. Mark's, with communion

Family-Oriented Service, 4:00pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Worship, 7:00pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP, Saturday, Dec., 25<sup>th</sup>:**

with communion, 10:00am, at St. James

**Sunday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>: No Worship Services OR Sunday School today! Wishing you a most blessed Christmas**

**FINANCIAL BOOKS CLOSE AT BOTH CHURCHES ON MONDAY, DEC. 27<sup>TH</sup>.** Any contributions received after that date will be entered for 2022.



Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org) email: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

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