

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
Arlington Heights, Illinois



**Christmas Eve**  
4:00 P.M. / December 24, 2022

# Welcome to St. John

**Welcome** Thank you for joining us for in-person worship today!

**Livestreaming** All of St. John's worship services are now livestreamed. You can watch the service live or at another time by going to our website, [www.stjah.org](http://www.stjah.org) or our Vimeo page, [www.vimeo.com/stjah](http://www.vimeo.com/stjah).

**Holy Communion** All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion at St. John. We believe that Jesus welcomed all to his mission of love and all are welcome to the table. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first & third Sundays of the month. All are invited to come forward, row by row. If you cannot come forward, a server will bring communion to you. **A gluten-free option is available upon request.**

**Giving** Offering plates are passed during worship. You can also give by going to [www.stjah.org](http://www.stjah.org) and clicking the "GIVE" tab at the top of the page, or by mail. Thank you for your generosity!

**Children in Worship** Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Packets for children are available for children.

**Interested in Membership?** Contact Pastor Michael at [mjones@stjah.org](mailto:mjones@stjah.org) or 847-255-6687.

**Open and Affirming** We are an ONA church. Please visit our website and see our ONA Statement on the back page of this bulletin for more information.

**Wifi Network & Password** Guest & StJohnGuest

## CONTACT US –

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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

## STAFF –

Rev. Michael D. Jones, Pastor – [mjones@stjah.org](mailto:mjones@stjah.org)

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – [office@stjah.org](mailto:office@stjah.org)

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

# Christmas Eve

## 4:00 P.M.

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME & GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### CHRISTMAS EVE PROCLAMATION

[Written by Rev. Steve Jerbi]

The people have stumbled in the abyss for so long but now have their paths illuminated. For those dwelling in a land of deep shadows, radiance shines forth.

In the beginning, when the world was in chaos, the divine Spirit hovered over the waters. In that same beginning, there was the Word; and the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God.

God brought forth the bright blessed day and the dark sacred night and declared them to be good.

In the fullness of time, the Word, that divine shine, put on flesh to stay among us. And we saw the Word's glory, filled with grace, filled with truth.

In Jesus, brilliance illuminated the world, and the shadows did not overcome it.

We have been given the gift of glow. Sometimes it is a flicker and sometimes it is a blaze, but the divine shine is within us; it is what we carry into the world.

The places of shadows and stumbling yearn for the radiant beams we carry, this holy night.

### INVOCATION

[Written by Rev. Elizabeth Rawlings]

Blessed be God: This God who came to be with us, to be among us. God made human, born of a woman. The Word made Flesh. The Three-in-One.

**Emmanuel is in this world, born this night. God is with us, now and evermore.**

**Amen.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of grace, by your tender mercy the dawn from on high breaks upon us. Your child, giving light to all sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death! Your child, guiding our feet into the way of peace! May the voice of angels so fill our hearts this evening that we go from here, singing their song of praise to you. Let us all together say:

**Gloria in the highest heaven and peace on earth! O come let us adore him!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

# O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

## ADESTE FIDELES

*Adeste fideles*

John F. Wade, ca. 1711–1786

English tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.

ADESTE FIDELES

John F. Wade, ca. 1711–1786

Setting by James Chepponis



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri -  
 1. *Ad - e - ste fi - de - les, lae - ti, tri - um -*  
 2. † God of God, Light of  
 3. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul -  
 4. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py



um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
*phan - tes, ve - ni - te, ve - ni - te in*  
 Light, † Lo! He comes forth from the  
 ta - tion, † sing, all ye cit - i - zens of  
 morn - ing, † Je - sus, to thee be all



Beth - le - hem; come and be -  
*Beth - le - hem. Na - tum vi -*  
 Vir - gin's womb. Our ver - y  
 heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to  
 glo - ry giv'n; Word of the



hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
*de - te, Re - gem an - ge - lo - rum.*  
 God, be - got - ten not cre - at - ed,  
 God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O  
*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve -*



come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
*ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do -*



dore him, Christ, the Lord!  
*re - mus Do - mi - num.*

**\*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

...And so we light the Christ candle, the light of he who fulfills our hope, peace, joy, and love.

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God of the Baby of Bethlehem: We come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving, aware of our failings and ready to change. There have been times in our lives where we did not open the door for the needy, did not welcome the hungry to our table, and cast out those we did not like to the backyard barn. Thankfully, you not only forgive us, but you use our errors to bring love into the world, as you did on Christmas night.

**We hear the glad tidings of the angel voices! We come to experience this good news of great joy for all the people. Let the light of your love break forth! Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*RESPONSE #133**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**

**Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

**\*THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

**\*RESPONSE #125** [Refrain]

*Gloria*

**Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo,**

**Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!**

**HEBREW BIBLE / OLD TESTAMENT**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

*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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'*

## CHILDREN'S GATHERING

## SONG

*What a Glorious Night*

**The shepherds came to see the baby, stood by His mother's side.**

**Here laid the Savior inside a manger.**

**Oh, what a glorious night! Oh, what a glorious night!**

**I hear the angels singin', "Hallelujah!" Let the earth receive her King.**

**I know that love has come; sing it out:**

**Jesus Christ is born! Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds wondered; they couldn't hide it. They told ev'ryone in sight.**

**All were amazed when they heard how God came**

**down on the glorious night. God came down on this glorious night!**

**Glorious! Glorious! What a glorious night!**

**All is calm now, all is quiet. A star shining in the sky.**

**Below in Bethlehem, the King is sleeping.**

**Oh, what a glorious night! Oh, what a glorious night!**

CCLI Song # 7002651 Ben McDonald | Casey Brown | David Frey | Jonathan Smith © 2013 Mike Curb Music (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing) Pencil Prophet Publishing (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing) Run Run Milo (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing) All Essential Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Hipgnosis Songs Essential (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) J Ingram Music Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3266027

## CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

HYMN #131

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Christmas Creed* — Andreas Wagner

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world.**

**I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, but who transformed the place by his very presence.**

**I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts.**

**I believe in Jesus, the Christ, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING & OFFERTORY *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* — Michael Burkhardt

\*DOXOLOGY #781

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;  
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*HOLY COMMUNION

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God Most High.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION, PRAYER, & 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.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING

\*CANDLELIGHT HYMN #134

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

***Stil-le Nacht, hei-lig-e Nacht!  
Al-les schlaft, ein-sam wacht  
Nur das trau-te, hoch-hei-li-ge Paar.  
Hol-der Kna-be im lock-i-gen Haar,  
Schlaf' in himm-li-scher Ruh,  
Schlaf' in himm-li-scher Ruh!***

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar.  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #132

*Joy to the World!*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*O Hail This Brightest Day of Days* – J.S. Bach

\*Indicates when congregation may stand.

**Bolded text** is intended to be read in unison by the whole congregation.

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**ST. JOHN**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST [www.stjah.org](http://www.stjah.org)

**ST. JOHN UCC OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT**



The congregation of St. John United Church of Christ rejoices that our community of faith is strengthened by diversity. We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people regardless of culture, economic status, age, sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, or physical/mental condition. We invite everyone to join our journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our congregation.