

December 23, 2018 – 10:00 am



Fourth Sunday in Advent

## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**ST. JOHN  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- **PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.**
- **\*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.**

PRELUDE: **“In the Bleak Midwinter”** Bill Volaver  
Stacie Pickens - Flute

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

CHOIR: **“Love’s Pure Light”** Joel Raney  
Congregational part - insert

RESPONSIVE LITANY: **Hope for God’s Love**

One: During Advent we see God’s love for us embodied in our Savior’s birth.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

One: Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

One: Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

One: Advent reminds us that Christ commended us to love as he loved.

**MANY: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

This morning we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today's candle - love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world that he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God's gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves us.

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship; in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

**MANY: This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted. Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.**

One: Before God's strength and power, we bow down; in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's judgment.

**MANY: This is our home, where our lives are redirected. Surely God will show us new ways to live.**

One: Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts; In humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.

**MANY: This day God is present with us; we feel it. Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.**

**"O COME LET US ADORE HIM"**

**A Christmas Pageant**

(All carols on screen)

**"O Come All Ye Faithful"**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**“Away in a Manger”**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High” Verse 1**

**Continue “Angels We Have Heard on High” Verses 2, 3**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**“We Three Kings” Verses 2, 3, 4**

**“Silent Night”**

Children will use American Sign Language for first verse.

**“Joy to the World”**

INVITATION TO SHARE: In this season, we remember the greatest offering of all time, God’s gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The only appropriate response is our giving of ourselves. What we place on the altar today symbolizes the depth of our commitment. May we show how thankful we are.

OFFERTORY: **“The Angels Song” Robert J. Hughes**

\*DOXOLOGY: **NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Chorus of "The First Noel"  
"Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel."**

**\*POSTLUDE: "Joyful Tidings" James Moffatt**



We thank the Sunday School teachers for bringing our children together to present our 2018 pageant.