

St. John's:
Making and Maturing
Disciples of Jesus Christ



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH
211 EAST CARROL STREET
KENTON, OH 43326

St. John's Evangelical Church

211 East Carrol Street

Kenton, OH 43326

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday (9 AM – 1 PM)

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“Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Welcome

*Praise

*Call to Worship

L: Leader **C: Congregation**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath –
Nancy Rickenbacher & Jim Bidwell

L: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves (**Psalm 126:5-6**).

The first three candles (two blue and one pink) are lit.

Light three candles, see them glow

Brightly, so that all may know

How three candles show the way

Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

C: Let us pray: Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Child: Elijah Bland – Columbus, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc. of Hardin County

The Lord's Prayer (*Debts/Debtors*)

Children's Message

The Gift of Love

Luke 1:46-49

(children please remain in your seats)

Giving of Tithes and Offerings:

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-11

Luke 1:46-55

Sermon

Greatly Rejoice!!!

***Praise**

***Benediction**

*— Those who are able, please stand



**Welcome to St. John's
Church!**

Scripture Readings (ESV):

Isaiah 61:1-11:

- ¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.
- ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- ⁵Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;
- ⁶but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast.
- ⁷Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.
- ⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

Luke 1:46-55:

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.
⁵⁰ And His mercy is for those who fear Him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel,
in remembrance of His mercy,
⁵⁵ as He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Sermon Notes

13 December 2020

Scripture: **Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:46-55**

Sermon: **Greatly Rejoice!!!**

1. Can you find joy even while needs and misery are increasing in our land and around the world? How will you respond to those needs locally and beyond?
2. From **Isaiah**'s passage, what stands out to you after the sermon? Read it over a couple of times. What is God calling you to emphasize in your life and to share with others now and in 2021?
3. How could Mary rejoice (gaudete) in spite of her circumstances? How do you find great joy in God in these days? How do you share that with other Christians to embolden them to rejoice in what God is doing?
4. Where do you find joy in Advent and Christmas 2020? How will you share that joy with others, and how will you invite others to know that joy and to experience that joy?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Missing Child: our prayers today go out to Elijah Bland missing since December 4, 2020 from Columbus, OH.

Mission of the Month: Love Inc. of Hardin County

Un-decorate the Church: January 10 following the worship service.

Community Men's Bible Study Saturday mornings at 7:30 am at Our Place Family Restaurant (formerly Basil's).

Community Women's Bible Study: Currently not meeting due to Covid Concerns – will provide updates as they are made.

Chancel Choir: Choir will practice once a month on the Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month at 7:30.

Van Driver Needed- Wednesday Nights: Van driver needed for the Wednesday Night Program a couple times a month from 5-7 pm when we restart the program. The church bus has been sold and now has a 12 passenger van that does not require a CDL to drive. Please see Jane Donnelly or the church office.

Wheelchairs: If you have borrowed a wheelchair from the church and no longer need it, please return or if you have one that you no longer use and would like to donate it, that would be appreciated. We used to have several to lend out to those in need. Any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Advent: Angels for the Elderly Food Drive: We will be collecting food for Angels for the Elderly again this year. The mission committee created a suggested donations. Suggested items: Proteins (canned meat & peanut butter); Fruits and Vegetable (canned); Pre-made meals (spaghetti, tuna and noodle); and Personal care & paper products, laundry detergent. These items can be dropped off at the church during office hours, M-F from 9-1.

Bulletin Announcements: due by Friday at 9:00 AM.

Week at a Glance:

Today 12/13:

10:00 AM Service - Online

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester

Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley

Children's Choir Director: Hope Cauley

Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker

Organist/Pianists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke, Linda Zeigler

Week at a Glance:

Attendance (12/6): Online

Envelopes:

Losse Offering:

Loose Ones:

November Mission: CEF:

Ushers:

12/13: Jim Bidwell & Nancy Rickenbacher

12/20: Russ Cahill & Dave Beazley