

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

SO DO NOT FEAR,

FOR I AM WITH YOU;

DO NOT BE DISMAYED,

FOR I AM YOUR GOD.

**I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU
— AND HELP YOU; —**

I WILL UPHOLD YOU

..... WITH MY

RIGHTEOUS RIGHT HAND.

ISAIAH 41:10

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

St. John's Evangelical Church

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“Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Welcome

Prelude

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*Hymn #100

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Call to Worship

L: Leader C: **Congregation**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Donovan & Kristi Weaver

L: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky (**Psalm 85:10-11**).

The first two (blue) candles are lit.

Light two candles; see them glow

Brightly, so that all may know

How two candles show the way

Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Let us pray: **Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of Your coming. In**

**Advent's light, help us to see what is important: to be who
You want us to be, and to do what You would have us do.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Child: Thomas Fowler, Jr. – Windham, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc. of Hardin County

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

Children's Message

Preparing the Way

Isaiah 40:3-4

(children please remain in your seats)

Special Music

Connie Beazley

Giving of Tithes and Offerings:

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

Lift Up Your Voice

***Hymn #102**

Come, Long Expected Jesus

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

***Benediction**

*— Those who are able, please stand



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

Scripture Readings (ESV):

Isaiah 40:1-11:

¹Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Go on up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and His arm rules for Him;

behold, His reward is with Him,
and His recompense before Him.
¹¹ He will tend His flock like a shepherd;
He will gather the lambs in His arms;
He will carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Mark 1:1-8:

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send My messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make His paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 donation by week but will take anything at any time and will place it in the back of the sanctuary.

Week 1 (Nov. 29): Proteins (canned meat & peanut butter)

Week 2 (Dec. 6): Fruits and Vegetable (canned)

Week 3 (Dec. 13): Pre-made meals (spaghetti, tuna and noodle)

Week 4 (Dec. 20): Personal care & paper products, laundry detergent

Sermon Notes
06 December 2020

Scripture: **Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8**

Sermon: **Lift Up Your Voice**

1. How has 2020 challenged your faith? Have the various issues and crises caused you to rethink theodicy, how a good and gracious God can tolerate and allow the existence of evil? How have you answered that question for yourself and others?
2. Whatever the times may be, God asks us to prepare a way (**Isaiah 40:3**) so others may come to Him? How are you inviting others to know God in Jesus, and how are you discipling them in the faith?
3. We are called to call people to confess their sins, so they can receive the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of their sins. How do you call people lovingly to confess and repent while standing with and for the holiness of God?
4. Ultimately, God is the one who saves and sanctifies (**Isaiah 40:10-11; Mark 1:8**), but we are called to call others. How are you calling others to meet Jesus in these days? (Hint: with the worship service online, you can easily invite others to watch and then discuss the service with them or have them contact the pastor to answer questions or pray with them.) What makes you distinct from the world (**Mark 1:6**)?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Missing Child: our prayers today go out to Thomas Fowler, Jr. missing since November 22, 2020 from Windham, OH.

Mission of the Month: Love Inc. of Hardin County

Stewardship Brochures: please place your stewardship commitment cards in the designated basket. If you are unable to return in person, please mail or drop off in the church office and mark envelope. These remain confidential and are only seen by Kay. These numbers help shape our budget and programs for 2021. Thank you for your continued support during these tough times.

Christmas Adopt A Family: We will be buying for a family through Helping Hands. If anyone wants to help sponsor and cannot get to the church, please contact Heather Erwin at 567-674-0020.

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

Community Men's Bible Study Saturday mornings at 7:30 am in St. John's Church Chapel.

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.

Bus Driver Needed- Wednesday Nights: Bus driver needed for the Wednesday Night Program a couple times a month from 5-7 pm. Please see Jane Donnelly or Trish Wilcox for more information.

Youth Donation Request: Pool Noodles, Christmas Inflatables that no longer inflate (small holes etc.), golf balls. Please see Michele Sherman will any questions.

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!

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

Week at a Glance:

Today 12/6: 10:00 AM Service - Online
Thursday, 12/10: 7:00 PM Church Council
Friday, 12/11: 8:00 PM NA Miracles – Chapel
Saturday, 12/12: 7:30 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast- Chapel
12:00 PM NA Miracles Meeting – Chapel

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 (11/29): Online
Envelopes:
Losse Offering:
Loose Ones:
November Mission: CEF:

Ushers:

12/6: Donovan & Kristi Weaver