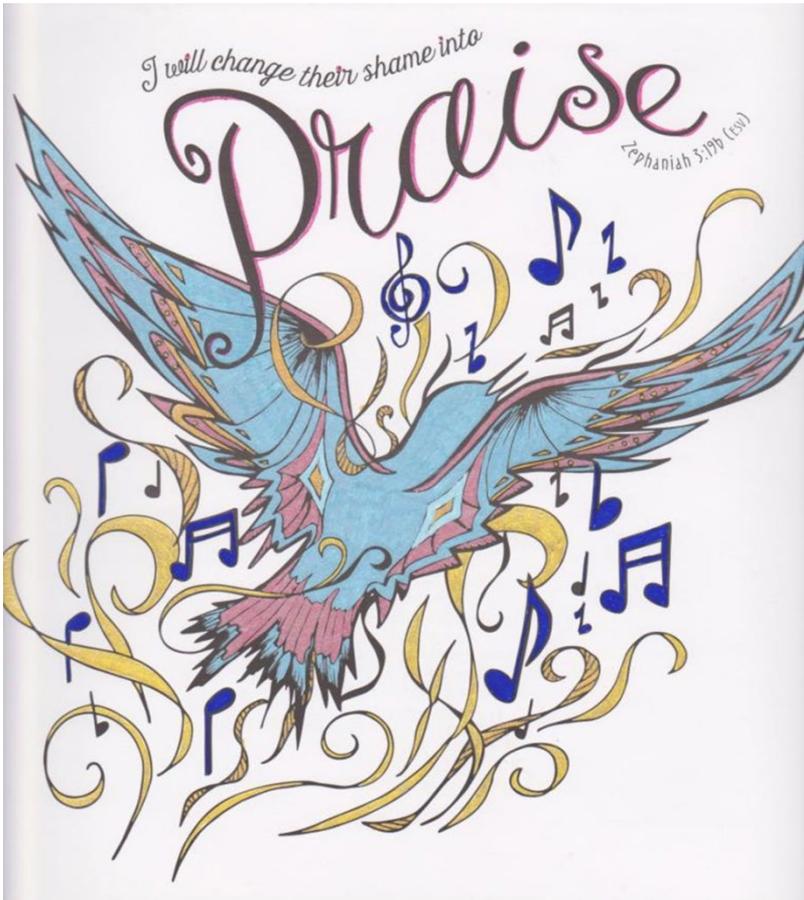


**St. John's:  
Making and Maturing  
Disciples of Jesus Christ**



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

# St. John's Evangelical Church

211 East Carrol Street

Kenton, OH 43326

Office: 419-673-7278

Pastor Randall (cell): 724-290-3651

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

Website: [www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)

Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

## “Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

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### Welcome

**Prelude**     *Joyous Angels from the Realms of Glory*     Page/Smart  
Based on Regent Square

**\*Hymn #106**     *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**\*Call to Worship/Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—**Philippians 4:4-7**

We light the third candle of JOY—the special pink candle with the candles of LOVE and HOPE. With Paul, we rejoice in You, O God. When we praise You, anxiety and fear subside. We trust the Holy Spirit to comfort in these days.

Let us pray: O Father, as we light these candles, we pray for the joy of Christ to rest in our hearts. May Your Spirit teach us to pray with thanksgiving and to let our hearts' desires be known to You. Fill us with Your peace, O God, and guard our hearts and minds in Christ. In His Name, Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:**

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Child: Kaesean Miller – Cincinnati, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

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

**Special Music**                      *Silent Comes the Joy*                      W. Gaithersburg

**Children's Message**              **The Joy of Christmas**                      Luke 3:10-11

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings:**

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

**\*Doxology**

**Scripture**                                      **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**Luke 3:7-18**

**Sermon**                                      **What Shall We Do?**

**\*Hymn #120**                      *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                                      *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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\*— Those who are able, please stand



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

## **Scripture Readings (ESV):**

### **Zephaniah 3:14-20:**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
He has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness;  
He will quiet you by His love;

He will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

## Luke 3:7-18:

<sup>7</sup> He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup> And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.



**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID**

On average, **123** people die by suicide each day. — American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2016, **630,000** people died from drug overdose. — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nearly **1 IN 5** U.S. adults lives with a Mental illness. — National Institute of Mental Health via the National Survey on Drug Use and Health and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The course will teach you how to apply the **ALICE** action plan:

- **A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- **L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- **L**ook for reassurance and information.
- **E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- **E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

**Why Mental Health First Aid?**

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. This training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

**MHFA Training**  
Saturday,  
January 22, 2022  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
St. John's Evangelical Church  
211 E. Carrol St.  
Kenton, Ohio  
To register - email Donna at [ddickman@passaah.org](mailto:ddickman@passaah.org)  
Last day to register: January 7th

**Who Should Take it**

- Employers
- Police officers
- Hospital staff
- First responders
- Faith leaders
- Community members
- Caring individuals

**What it Covers**

- Common signs and symptoms of mental illness
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use
- How to interact with a person in crisis
- How to connect the person with help
- **NEW!** Expanded content on trauma, addiction and self-care

**PASS**  
The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of AOH

 This program is a top-notch service to area communities like ours and we are so grateful for the opportunity to have this program. - **Nikki Carber** Speak Out Against Suicide

Sermon Notes  
**12 December 2021**

Scripture: **Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18**

Sermon: **What Shall We Do?**

1. What brings the joy of the season into your heart? How do you rejoice continually rejoice in the Lord (**Philippians 4:4**)?
2. How does knowing that the Lord our God is in our midst, the Mighty One will save, He rejoices over you with gladness, He quiets you with His love, AND (there's more!) He rejoices over you with singing bring you joy (**Zephaniah 3:17**)?
3. How can you "produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (**Luke 3:8**)? If John the Baptist were to speak to your profession or vocation or lifestyle, what would he tell you to do to demonstrate such fruit in keeping with repentance (see **Luke 2:11-14**)?
4. When you think of playing "second fiddle" to Christ (see **Luke 3:15-16**) and His call for you to humble yourself and to sacrifice for those in need, how do you find joy in such service?

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Missing Child:** our prayers today go out to Kasean Miller missing since December 1, 2021 from Cincinnati, OH.

**Mission of the Month:** Love Inc. of Hardin County

**Family Gingerbread House Making Party (Please note date & time change):** Sunday, December 19 at 5 pm. There will also be crafts, sweet treats and hot chocolate. Please register by December 13, if attending.

**Christmas Eve Service:** December 24 at 8 pm. This year, the service will be a little different than in recent years. This evening will be narrated by God and include the children's choir and youth members leading various parts of the service. Come back with us to a simpler time as we remember the Christmas story and experience it with the faith of a child. Open your hearts as we embark on a journey. Casual dress is appropriate.

**Committee Budgets & Year End Reports:** It is that time of year again. Please submit year end reports for the Annual Meeting Booklet by December 31 or financials by the beginning of January.

**Mental Health First Aid Training:** Saturday, January 22 in the fellowship hall. There is no cost for this training and lunch is provided. It is being organized by ONU students. To register, email Donna at [ddickman@passaah.org](mailto:ddickman@passaah.org). Last day to register is January 7.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** January 30 immediately following the morning worship service.

**Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign-Up:** If you are able to provide food, please sign-up in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 5:30 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

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



## **Week at a Glance**

Today, 12/12: 9:00 AM Sunday School (K-Grade 5)  
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study – FH  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
5-7 PM Youth Group

Tuesday, 12/14: 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery

Wednesday, 12/15: 5-7 PM Wednesday Night Program - FH  
7:00 PM Bible Study – Chapel

Friday, 12/17: 11:30 PM Friday w/ Friends  
Plaza Inn – Mt. Victory

Saturday, 12/18: 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study- FH

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### **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 (12/5): 70

Envelopes:

Loose Ones: \$

Mission:

Ushers:

12/12: Donovan & Kristi Weaver

12/19: Jim Bidwell, Nancy Rickenbacher (liturgist: Rae Maurer)



### **Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24 - 8 PM**

**Journey back with us to a simpler time as  
we remember the Christmas Story.  
Casual dress is appropriate.**