

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

"Lord, now you are
letting your servant
depart in peace,
according to your
word; for my eyes
have seen your
salvation that you
have prepared in
the presence of all
peoples, a light for
revelation to the
Gentiles, and for
glory to your people
Israel."

Luke 2: 29-32

WJK/52-1224-2017 - G. Locke

**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

Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

“Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

Welcome

Prelude

Christmas is a Time to Love

*Hymn #112

Away in a Manger

*Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Wreath

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.—

Colossians 3:12-17

Today, we once again light the CHRIST candle that is surrounded by the candles of HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE. We celebrate the harmony that comes in Christ and comes in all of His gifts. We come bringing the offerings of our praise, and we come as a family of God blessed by the unity that Christ grants to us.

Let us pray: O Father, as we light these candles, our hearts are filled with adoration and praise for You. Soon, we will break forth in singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Receive our worship and fill our hearts with the Word of Christ. Grant us Your Spirit that everything we do, think, or say would be done in the Name of our Lord Jesus and with thanksgiving to You, O Father. In Christ's Name, Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Child: Reason Roloson – Columbus, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

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

Special Music

Joy Van Horn, saxophone

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella Traditional

Breath of Heaven Grant/Eaton

Children's Message **Our God is Faithful, 100%** Luke 2:25-26

Giving of Tithes and Offerings:

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

***Doxology**

Scripture

Psalm 119:81-88

Luke 2:21-38

Sermon

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, You Dismiss Us...

***Hymn #117**

Silent Night

***Benediction**

Postlude

*— Those who are able, please stand



Welcome to St. John's Church

If you purchased poinsettias, please take them home with you. Thank you so much for your continued support of our Youth Poinsettia Sale.

Scripture Readings (NRSV):

Psalm 119:81-88:

- ⁸¹ My soul languishes for Your salvation;
I hope in Your word.
- ⁸² My eyes fail with watching for Your promise;
I ask, “When will You comfort me?”
- ⁸³ For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
yet I have not forgotten Your statutes.
- ⁸⁴ How long must Your servant endure?
When will You judge those who persecute me?
- ⁸⁵ The arrogant have dug pitfalls for me;
they flout Your law.
- ⁸⁶ All Your commandments are enduring;
I am persecuted without cause; help me!
- ⁸⁷ They have almost made an end of me on earth;
but I have not forsaken Your precepts.
- ⁸⁸ In your steadfast love spare my life,
so that I may keep the decrees of Your mouth.

Luke 2:21-38:

- ²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.
- ²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”
- ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for

Him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now You are dismissing your servant in peace, according to Your word;

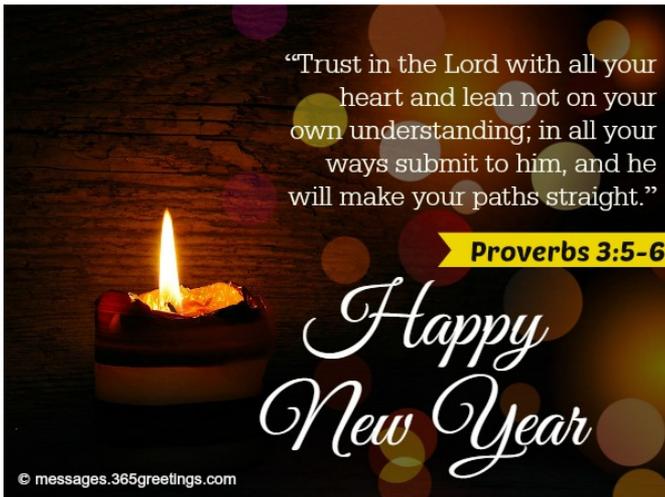
³⁰ for my eyes have seen Your salvation,

³¹ which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce Your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.



Sermon Notes
26 December 2021

Scripture: **Psalm 119:81-88; Luke 2:21-38**

Sermon: ***Nunc Dimittis*—Lord, You Dismiss Us...**

1. How does the section of **Psalm 119** (related to the Hebrew Letter כ (kaph)) instruct you to be humble and contented? How did Simeon and Anna model these traits?
2. Do you rejoice over God's gift of salvation like Simeon? How do you plan to share the light of Christ with others this Christmas and into the New Year?
3. How does Anna's story convict you to remain faithful even when you may not look blessed from a worldly perspective? How do you share the Good News with those around you (**Luke 2:38**)?
4. Are you prepared to open your heart to allow the Holy Spirit to change you to be more Christlike? Are you prepared to discover and use your spiritual gifts more fully for God's glory, the building of this church, and bringing blessings into this world in 2022?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Missing Child: our prayers today go out to Reason Roloson missing since December 14, 2021 from Columbus, OH.

Mission of the Month: Love Inc. of Hardin County

Funeral Expense Need: A family needs helping paying a funeral bill. If you are able to help, please make checks payable to: Price McElroy Funeral Home and in the memo write St. John's Church. They will also accept cash. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or Price McElroy Funeral Home.

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- Watch for Date Change: A Mental Health First Aid Training was scheduled to be held here on Saturday, January 22 in the fellowship hall. They are trying to change the date so the training can be split over 2 shorter sessions. They are hoping to do it on March 26 and April 2. The ONU students were not able to finalize this change yet, so please watch for updates. There is no cost for this training. To register, email Donna at ddickman@passaah.org.

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 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

Thank you: I wish to extend a special thank you for helping make the Women's Celebration a huge success to the table hostesses; Toni, president of Women's Ministry; Kay and her kitchen crew; Kathy for printing programs; Nancy for a beautiful decorated church; and to David and Connie Beazley for wonderful music. And an extra thank you to Santa for bringing his special kind of Christmas joy. Thank you all for a great evening of fellowship. Merry Christmas!
Sharon Sturgeon, Women's Celebration Co-Chair

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

Week at a Glance

Today, 12/26: 9:00 AM Sunday School (K-Grade 5)
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study – FH
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Clean up from Christmas Eve

Monday, 12/27: Office Closed

Tuesday, 12/28: Office Closed
6:00 PM Women's Ministry
6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery

Wednesday, 12/29: Office Closed
7:00 PM Bible Study – Chapel

Thursday, 12/30: Office Closed

Friday, 12/31: Office Closed

Saturday, 1/1: Happy New Year!
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study - FH

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 (12/19): 73

Envelopes:

Loose Ones: \$

Mission:

Ushers:

12/26: Barb Scott & Janice Rall

1/2: Toni & Jerry Pfister

