

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

They shall
see the
glory of
the LORD,
the majesty
of our God.

Isaiah 35.2



**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

Office Hours: Monday – Friday (8:30-10:30 & 12:30-2:30)

Website: www.stjohnskenton.org

Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

“Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Nursery is provided off the sanctuary for Infants –Kindergarten.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Randy Rogers/Cinda Shea (organ/piano duet)

*Hymn #119 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

*Call to Worship/Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Embraced at Christmas

By His incarnation, Jesus demonstrated that our bodies are not inherently evil.—Charles & Virginia Sell

Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

—II Corinthians 13:11, NKJV

During World War I, guns of ally and enemy poured death upon helpless troops deep in the trenches of France. Death reigned on the hard throne of hate and revenge. Night came and the guns finally fell silent, but troops on both sides waited poised for more battle.

However, it was Christmas Eve, the time of miracles, and one occurred there. In the midst of that drama of fear and tragedy, there was heard coming from the German trenches the singing of Christmas carols. Overcome by contrast and the counterpoint of joy, the Allied troops joined the singing. They sang and sang in unparalleled harmony. Their voices blended and then amalgamated.

In the midst of the singing, first one side and then the other began moving out of the trenches. No agreement had been made, no command given. Spontaneously and freely, the two sides moved toward each other. The music continued, and as they met singing the age-old melodies of birth

and life, they shook hands and embraced under a Christmas moon. That was the night God's will was done on earth as it is done in heaven.

When you embrace one another in love and peace, God's kingdom comes on earth and angels sing for joy. (*Light two purple & the pink candles.*)

Prayer: I have looked for the Way to peace, O God, and now I know that peace is the way. And I know that true peace is only found in the cross of Christ and the lowly manger of Jesus. Amen.

The Advent wreath devotions are derived from Christmas is...A Treasury of Meditations, Stories, & Quotes. Empson, Lila, ed. Blue Sky Ink, Brentwood, TN, 2004

***Gloria Patri**

Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Person: Lenny Davis – Dayton, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

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

Children's Message **Star Light, Star Bright** Matthew 11:3

Special Music *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Miller/Jackson
Jane Baker

Giving of Tithes and Offerings:

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

***Doxology**

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Holding Fast to the Faith

***Hymn #110**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Postlude

Joy to the World

T. Doran

***Benediction**

*— Those who are able, please stand



Scripture Readings (NRSV):

Isaiah 35:1-10:

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11:

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are you the One who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, and lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at Me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending My messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Christmas Adopt-a –Family: St. John’s is partnering once again with Helping Hands and Angel Tree Prison Ministry to make sure that the children of our community have a nice Christmas. If you are able to purchase items, please follow the instructions below and return by December 11: Remove the tag for the gift you select. On the front of each tag you will find a number. On the table is a sheet listing all the tag numbers. **Please write your name beside the number on the sheet that corresponds to the number on your tag.** If you able, **please wrap your gift.** But please don’t let that stop you from participating! If you want to drop off your gifts unwrapped, we will wrap them prior to distributing them. Also, if you want to participate but don’t want to shop, cash can be dropped off at the church office and we will do the shopping for you. **Please be sure the original tag you selected or number is on the tag is somewhere on the gift!** This will ensure that the gift gets to the correct person. Thank you for sharing God’s love by blessing these families! If you have any questions, please contact Heather (567-674-0020) or the church office.



Sermon Notes
11 December 2022

Scripture: **Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11**

Sermon: **Holding Fast to the Faith**

1. **Isaiah's** prophecies look to a future time, but how do they give you comfort and hope and joy (v **10**)? What passages stand out to you? Why?
2. Do you find yourself pursuing happiness or joy in this season? Are you content in Christ or restless for more, something different, or a special feeling? How do you turn to Christ for your joy?
3. How did John the Baptist find joy in prison? What joy is there when your neck is (literally) on the line? How do you find joy in difficult circumstances? What keeps you from falling away from or being offended by Christ (v **6**)?
4. While John the Baptist holds a great place in the Bible, Jesus says that the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he (v **11**). How does that comfort you? How does that challenge you? Read **Matthew 11:12-19**. What more do you need to do to exceed John? Where do your heart's desires need to rest? How should you then pursue them biblically?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Missing Person: Today we pray for Lenny Davis missing from Dayton, OH.

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

Church Family Luncheon: Today following worship. Please plan to stay after the service for a time of food & fellowship. Food provided!

Community Hymn Sing: December 18 at 6 pm at First United Methodist Church.

Family Gingerbread House Making: December 21 at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. A fun filled evening with treats, hot chocolate and building gingerbread houses with not only your family but your church family! Please let us know if you plan to attend by December 15 if possible for planning.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 8 pm

Lake of Lights: Nov. 25- Dec. 31 from 6 – 9 pm at Saulisberry Park. The cost is \$5 per car. By visiting, you will be supporting lots of youth. More information can be found on the Lake of Lights Facebook page.

Angels for the Elderly Food Drive: We will be collecting food for Angels for the Elderly again this year. Below is a suggested donation list. Please place items in the tote in the back of the sanctuary by December 18. Sample list of items needed: Bottled water, Canned vegetables - don't forget canned potatoes, Canned fruit, canned applesauce - (or small individual containers), Canned soup, Instant potatoes as well as bags of potatoes which can be divided for a few homes, Spaghetti sauce and pasta, Pancake mix and syrup, Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.), Peanut butter and jelly, Macaroni & cheese, Cereal and/or instant oatmeal, Biscuit or baking mixes, especially those that only use water (don't forget Jiffy Mix), Boxed meals that require only water – also Tuna Helper & Hamburger Helper, Dried beans, Raisins - small boxes, Jello & pudding, Chapstick, hand or body lotion, body wash, Bars of soap, Cough drops, Deodorant, razors, toothbrushes & toothpaste, Shampoo & conditioner, Toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissue, Laundry detergent and dish soap, Adult disposable underwear, Socks and gloves

Annual Congregational Meeting: January 22 immediately following the morning worship service.

Jr. Church Volunteers: Everything is prepared for you. Please see Michele with questions and to volunteer.

Bulletin Announcements: due by Friday at 8:30 AM.

Week at a Glance

Today, 12/11: 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Church Luncheon – FH
4-6 PM HCC Youth @ St. John's – FH
7:00 PM NA Meeting – Chapel

Tuesday, 12/13: 6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery – Chapel

Wednesday, 12/14: 5-7 PM Kid's Night
5:30-7:30 PM Youth Group
7:00 PM Bible Study

Friday, 12/16: 11:30 AM Friday w/Friends – Kenton Moose
7:00 PM NA Meeting – Chapel

Saturday, 12/17: 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study – Chapel
12:30 PM Luncheon - FH

Last Week:

Attendance (12/4):

Envelopes:

Loose Ones:

Mission (Love Inc.):

Ushers:

12/11: Janice Rall & Nancy Wilcox

12/18: Greg & Sharon Martin



Christmas & Birthday Card Request for Joyce Agin:

If you would like to send her a card for Christmas or her 96th birthday on January 26, you can send them to her directly. All I ask is that you keep any information you say to her general. There are certain subjects we don't discuss with her due to her getting upset. Please tell her about your family, animals included, and what everyone is doing. Thank you, Cathy Hart

Joyce Agin

800 South 15th St.

Room 9125

Sebring, OH 44672