

**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

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Kenton, OH 43326

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

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“Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Nursery is provided off the sanctuary for Infants –Kindergarten.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sorensen

***Hymn #100**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***Call to Worship/Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Time to Wait**

The four-week period before Christmas is called Advent. The word advent derives from a Latin word that means "coming." During the season of Advent, you wait for the coming of God in Jesus at Bethlehem. You anticipate that moment when Mary looked for the first time upon the face of her newborn baby. You strain your ears toward the hills for a sound of angels singing. You look for some shepherds who make their way to a cave so you can go with them. You wonder where, in their arduous journey, the Wise Men are by now. You search the skies for a particularly bright star. And, you wait...

You wait because you know what you wait for. You wait because you know what you wait for is worth waiting for. An hour of waiting seems to take up most of the day. It seems, at times, you have been put on permanent hold, but you know better. You know, at the end of the wait, there is Bethlehem. There are Mary and Joseph. You can see the shepherds looking up into the sky, the Wise Men on their camels trudging along. You can smell the hay in the manger. You can hear the angels tuning up. You wait because you know, at the end of the wait, there is God. (*Light two purple candles.*)

Prayer: Dear God, I Wait for You to get to Bethlehem so You can come into my heart again. 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: Noah Johnson – Bryan, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

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

Children's Message A Voice in the Wilderness

Matthew 3:2-3

Special Music- Favorite Christmas Hymns

Giving of Tithes and Offerings:

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

***Doxology**

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon

A Better Way

Chancel Choir

Emmanuel, Expected Jesus

Schram

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*The Apostle's Creed

back of hymnal

The Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

***Hymn #104**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Postlude

Silent Night

J. Raney

***Benediction**

*— Those who are able, please stand



Scripture Readings (ESV):

Isaiah 11:1-10:

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12:

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is He who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee

from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume 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.

¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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
04 December 2022

Scripture: **Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12**

Sermon: **A Better Way**

1. What surprising work (a branch from a stump, a wolf befriending a lamb, a child to lead; **Isaiah 11:1, 6**) do you see God doing in these days? How is the Holy Spirit breaking into the world and the life of our church to do this new thing (**Isaiah 11:2**)?
2. How do John's words to repent and turn to God resonate with you this year (**Matthew 3:2**)? What specifically do you need to address in your life so God is more of a focal point?
3. What fruit—in keeping with repentance—are you bearing (**Matthew 3:8**)? What physical impact does your spiritual life have? Who have you ministered directly to? Who have you mentored, supported, or helped? List names and how you have accomplished this.
4. How will you seek a better way to help our church to grow as a family in 2023? What specific steps can you take in regards to worship and fellowship? Who will you work with and what do you hope to accomplish? Are you doing this in Christ and for Christ?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Missing Person: Today we pray for Noah Johnson missing from Bryan, 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: December 11 following worship. Please plan to stay after the service for a time of food & fellowship. Food provided! Invite your friends!

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, 12/4: 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship Service
Jr. Church
11:00 AM WAM Meeting – Chapel
11:00 AM Missions/Evangelism
7:00 PM NA Meeting – Chapel

Tuesday, 12/6: 1:00 PM First Tuesday- Blanchard Place
6:30 PM Ag Hall of Fame Banquet – FH
6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery – Chapel

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

Thursday, 12/8: 6:00 PM Church Council – Chapel

Friday, 12/9: 12:00 PM Prayer – Sanctuary
7:00 PM NA Meeting – Chapel

Saturday, 12/10: 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study – Chapel

Last Week:

Attendance (11/27): 70

Envelopes:

Loose Ones:

Mission (CEF):

Ushers:

12/4: Barb Scott & Peggy Cahill

12/11: Joy Van Horn & Janice Rall

