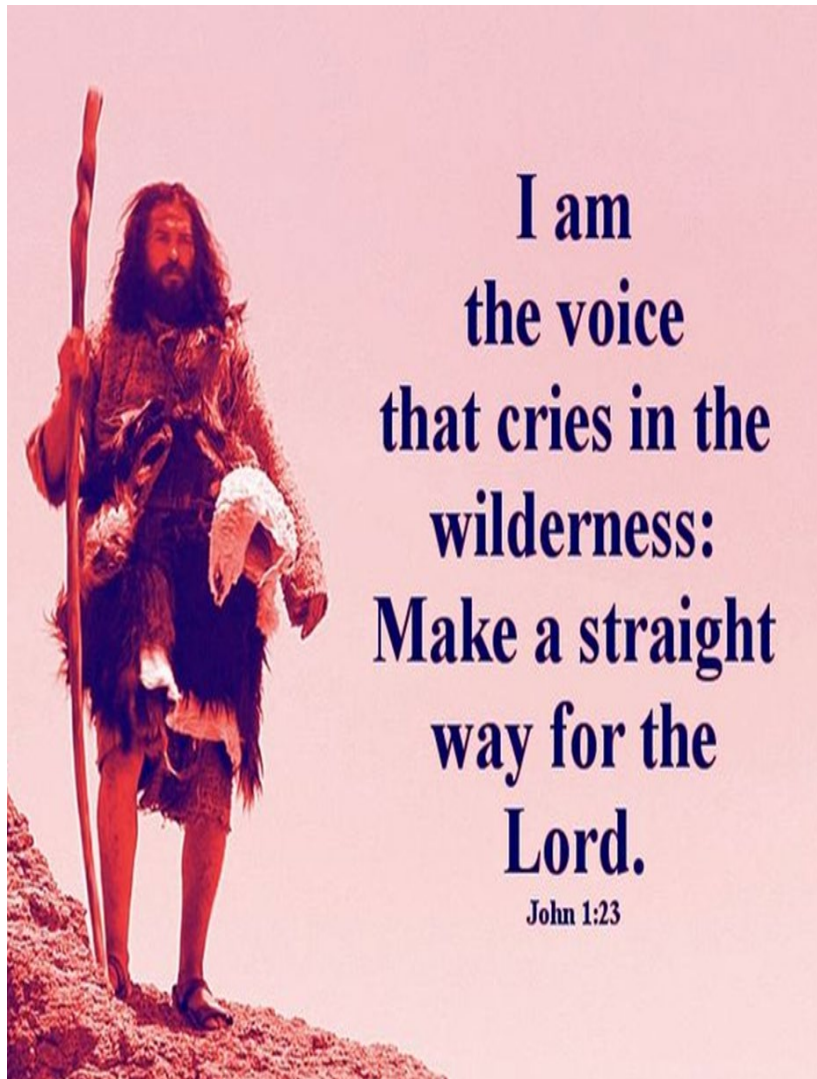


**St. John's:  
Making and Maturing  
Disciples of Jesus Christ**



**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

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

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## **“Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”**

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### **Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 17, 2023**

*Nursery is provided off the sanctuary for Infants – Kindergarten.*

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### **Welcome & Announcements (Greet online viewers)**

**Prelude**                      *Christmas Medley*                      Traditional English  
   *The First Noel with What Child Is This*                      Turner

**\*Hymn #104**              *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**\*Call to Worship**                      **Psalm 126:4-6**

L: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

**C: like streams in the Negeb!**

L: Those who sow in tears

**C: shall reap with shouts of joy!**

L: He who goes out weeping,

**C: bearing the seed for sowing,**

L: shall come home with shouts of joy,

**C: bringing his sheaves with him.**

### **Advent Wreath Lighting**

The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

**Scripture:** “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves”  
**(Psalm 126:5-6).**

*Light the two purple candles and the pink candle.*

Light three candles, see them glow  
Brightly, so that all may know  
How three candles show the way  
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

**Prayer:** Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear Your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:**

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Person: Diamyn Holley – Akron, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

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

**Children's Message**

**The Greatest**

John 1:27

**Chancel Choir**

*Christmas Grace*

Kern

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings:**

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

**\*Doxology**

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 61:1-11**

**John 1:19-28**

**Sermon**

**Make Straight the Way**

**\*Hymn #106**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Away In A Manger*

Brantley

Quoting Mueller, Cradle Song and Jesus Loves Me

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\*— Those who are able, please stand

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

### **Isaiah 61:1-11:**

- <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>5</sup>Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;  
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;  
<sup>6</sup>but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;  
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;  
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,  
and in their glory you shall boast.  
<sup>7</sup>Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;  
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;  
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;  
they shall have everlasting joy.  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,

for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

## **John 1: 19-28:**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



Sermon Notes  
**17 December 2023**

Scripture: **Isaiah 61:1-11; John 1:19-28**

Sermon: **Make Straight the Way**

1. Quoting **Isaiah 40**, what does John proclaim his ministry to be? As in all Christian ministry, to whom does all of our service, worship, and work point? For what purpose?
2. Jesus quotes **Isaiah 61** toward the beginning of His ministry. What does the Holy Spirit call upon believers to do? What is our proclamation and actions supposed to accomplish?
3. According to **Isaiah 61**, what blessings do believers receive for their faithfulness to God? What titles and benefits does the LORD promise to His faithful followers?
4. How can we lead people to freedom in these days? What will you commit to do to help another person grow closer to God in the days ahead?

**Sola Gratia (grace alone)**

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Missing Person:** Today we pray for Diamyn Holley missing from Akron, OH.

**Christmas Eve Service:** December 24 at 8 pm

**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 under the tree in the back of the sanctuary. 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, hats and gloves.

**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.

**Un-decorate the church:** January 7



*First Christian Church Disciples of Christ  
340 North Main Street Kenton, OH 43326  
419-673-1197*

*Website- [fcckenton.org](http://fcckenton.org)  
Follow us on Facebook @FCCKentonOH  
Rev. Bruce Bowerman-Jett- Minister*

### **A Christmas Meal**

Join us for a very special  
Christmas Eve-

Sunday Dec, 24th from 11a- 2p  
in place of our traditional  
morning/ Christmas Eve  
service.

We will be partnering with  
Hardin County S.O.U.P to serve  
meals to our community.

At noon we will share in the  
Christmas story and carols with  
our community.

## Week at a Glance

Today, 12/17:	9:00 AM Women's Bible Study – FH 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Carols & Prayers on the Square 7:00 PM NA Meeting – Chapel
Tuesday, 12/19:	6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery – Chapel
Wednesday, 12/20:	7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Bible Study
Friday, 12/22:	12:00 PM Prayer – Sanctuary
Saturday, 12/23:	7:30 AM Men's Bible Study – Chapel

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### Week at a Glance:

Attendance (12/10): 47

Envelopes: \$3626

Loose Ones:

Mission (Love Inc.): \$365

Salvation Army:

Ushers:

12/17: Kathy & Angel Forester (Jane Baker- liturgist)

12/24 (am): Jane Donnelly

12/24 (pm); Weaver Family



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

**Office Hours:** 8:30-10:30 am & 12:30-2:30 pm, Monday – Friday unless there is a delay/cancellation. Please call the office if you have any questions.

