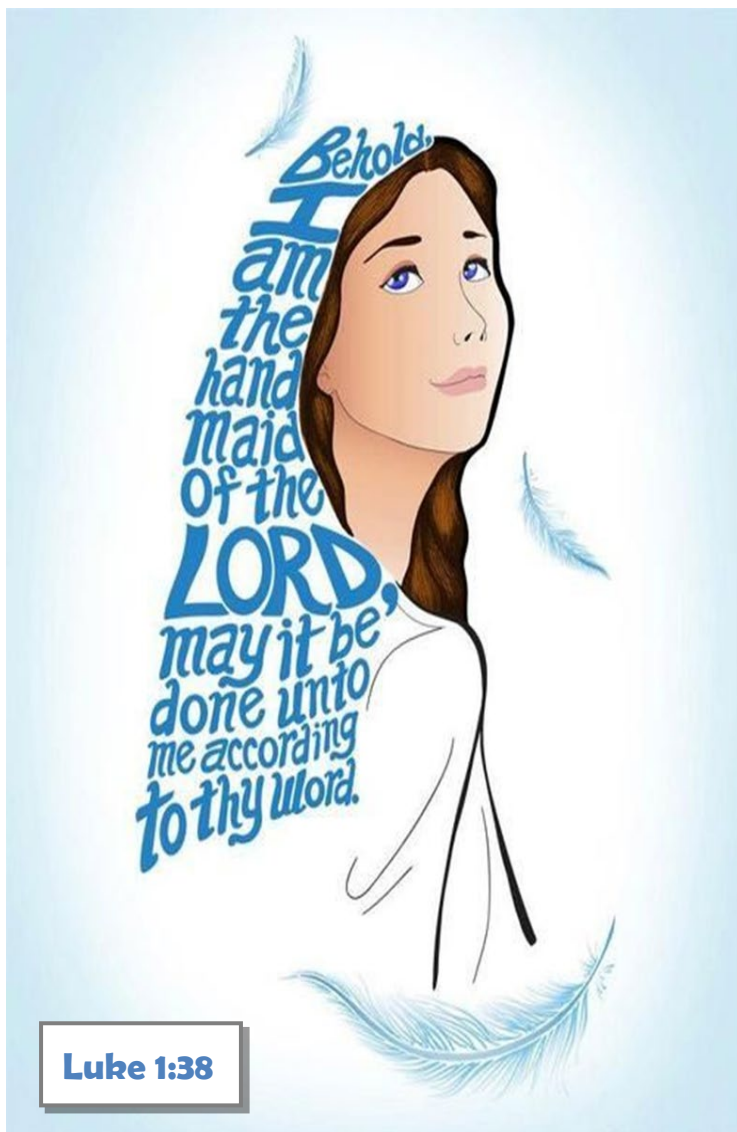


24 December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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)**

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

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

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 24, 2023**

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

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

**Prelude**                      *Still, Still, Still*                      Traditional Austrian Carol  
Randy Rogers/Cinda Shea, organ/piano duet

**\*Hymn #119**                      *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

**\*Call to Worship**                      **Luke 1:46b-50**

L: “My soul magnifies the Lord,

**C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

L: for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.

**C: For behold, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;**

L: for He who is mighty has done great things for me,

**C: and holy is His name.**

L: And His mercy is for those who fear Him

**C: from generation to generation.”**

### **Advent Wreath Lighting**

Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; He has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

**Scripture:** “With my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever; Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens”

**(Psalm 89:1b-2).**

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

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

**Prayer:** Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior’s name we pray. Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Let Us Pray Unto the Lord:**

The Pastoral Prayer

Missing Person: Aaron Tinsley – Woodlawn, OH

Mission of the Month: Love Inc.

The Lord’s Prayer (*Debts/Debtors*)

**Children’s Message      Mary Had a Little Lamb      Luke 1:30-31**

**Chancel Choir      Come, and Adore Him      Larson/Wade**

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings:**

Offering Prayer

Offerings can be placed in the baskets in back of sanctuary

**\*Doxology**

**Scripture      II Samuel 7:1-16  
                                 Luke 1:26-38**

**Sermon      Here Am I**

**\*Hymn #110      Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude      Christmas Night      Traditional**

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\*— Those who are able, please stand

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

### **II Samuel 7:1-16:**

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build Me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?”’”

<sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to Me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but My steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

## Luke 1:26-38:

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



*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.

Sermon Notes

**24 December 2023**

Scripture: **II Samuel 7:1-16; Luke 1:26-38**

Sermon: **Here Am I**

1. How did David put himself at the Lord's disposal in **II Samuel**? How did God respond to David's request? How do you see God responding to you as you pursue His heart? How do you seek to bless the Lord?
2. What was Mary's great calling in **Luke 1**? How did she initially respond (v **29**) to the encounter with Gabriel? Why do you suppose she reacted in that manner?
3. What did Gabriel promise about this child Jesus (vv **32-35**)? What other sign (v **36-37**) was given to assure Mary of what God would do for her?
4. In response, Mary consents to bear the infant Christ. Knowing the costs and struggles of Christian faith, how do you respond to God's call on your life? With joy? With conviction? With something else?

**Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God)**

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Missing Person:** Today we pray for Aaron Tinsley missing from Woodlawn , 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

**Annual Meeting:** January 28 at 11 am following the service.

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**The Forester family will be on vacation from December 25-January 2. The office will also be closed the week of Christmas and will be reopen January 3. In case of an emergency, the pastor on call is Pastor Eric Risner from Abundant Life. Pastor Eric's number is 567-674-2894.**



## Week at a Glance

Today, 12/24: 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study – FH  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
7:00 PM NA Meeting – Chapel  
8:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Service

Monday, 12/25: Merry Christmas – Office Closed

Tuesday, 12/26: Office Closed  
6:00 Women's Ministry  
6:30 PM Celebrate Recovery – Chapel

Wednesday, 12/27: Office Closed  
7:30 PM Bible Study

Thursday, 12/28: Office Closed

Friday, 12/29: Office Closed

Saturday, 12/30: 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study – Chapel  
9-10:30 AM The Chosen Bible Study – FH

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### Week at a Glance:

Attendance (12/17): 58

Envelopes: \$

Loose Ones:

Mission (Love Inc.):

Salvation Army:

Ushers:

12/24 (am): Jane Donnelly & Barb Roof

12/24 (pm); Weaver Family

12/31: Jane Donnelly & Carol Cornell



**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.

