



Connecting all to Christ to become
healthy in God and courageous in love.

Jesus,
Lord at Thy Birth



Traditional Worship - December 1, 2024 - 8:30 & 11:00 am

Entering into the Spirit of Worship

Greeting 8:30 - Tom Beattie 11:00 - Monica Coventry

Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* Bish

***Call to Worship** 8:30 - Angela Fritz
11:00 - Dianne West

Leader: Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.

People: Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

Leader: Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

People: For great is the Holy One in our midst, blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.

***Hymn** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (v. 1, 2, 4 & 6) #162

Advent Candle Lighting 8:30 - Ike & Valerie Kuhns
11:00 - Bonnie, Rick & Katie Conley

The Uniting of our Hearts in Prayer

Prayer 8:30 - Pastor Robby Strock
11:00 - Pastor Bryan George

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Proclaiming the Word of God

Anthem (11:00 only)

Phophets Knew
Chancel Choir

Larson

Scripture Reading Colossians 1:15-20 pg. 955

The Nicene Creed

#693

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Offering our Gifts to God

Sing We Now of Christmas
Men's Chorus

arr. Althouse

*Response in Song (11:00 only)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication (11:00 only)

*Hymn (11:00 only)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed (v. 1)

#165

Scripture

John 1:1-14

pg. 858

Message

In the Beginning was...Jesus

Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

Pastor Bryan George

Responding With Thanksgiving

Communion

Hymnal pg. 731

Communion is open to all people who confess Jesus as Lord. There will be stations set up in various locations in the Sanctuary. After Pastor Bryan blesses the elements, you may go to the nearest station where pieces of bread and individual cups have been prepared. After receiving the elements you may return back to your seat. If you are unable to come forward due to physical limitation, the ushers will bring the elements to you as you remain seated. Allergen-free wafers are available at all stations.

Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#163

*Benediction

Postlude

Come, Lord Jesus

Cherwien

*Those who are able, please stand

Choir Director - Abe Gibson; Organist/Accompanist - Jimmy Oakley

Altar Flowers are given by Mardy & Tom DiGiacinto
to the Glory of God

Acolytes: Jacob Ashley & June Ashley

Sermon Outline

Focus: The Gospel of John celebrates that the Word of God entered our world as flesh and blood. The Creator did not stay distant from our existence but loved us so much that sent his ultimate message for us, bringing light into the darkness, offering us grace and truth, and inviting us into His family.

I) “Jesus, Lord at thy birth”

Joey and the nightlight in the dark

God sent us Jesus – the eternal word, full of grace and truth

II) The Radical Good News of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14)

Word: “*Logos*” Divine Speech and Logic (v.1)

The underlying worldview that the universe has a divine design and order

The architect – designing the building and also entering it to repair it

Light: “*Phos*” Jesus brings light to dispel darkness (v.4-5, 9)

Jesus illuminates our lives

C.S. Lewis: *“In the dark everything looks the same and it is only in the light that distinctiveness and uniqueness is revealed.”*

Among: “*Skénoó*” dwell as in a tent (v.14)

Every religion is an attempt to bridge the gap between God and our brokenness

Jesus becomes the “covering” for those who believe

A God who didn’t stay distant

Full of grace χάριτος **and** truth ἀληθείας (v.14)

Bringing unmerited favor and righteousness together

III) So What?

We are not challenged to understand the complexity of the Incarnation

We are invited to believe that God has come in Jesus Christ to show the way of Salvation.

ABC – Acknowledge, Believe, and Confess

This month try sharing the Good News by inviting someone to church during the advent or Christmas season.

Visit churchofthelakes.org/good-news for more details about flash prayers

Contemporary Worship - December 1, 2024 - 9:30 am

Praise Songs

Joy to the World
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Welcome

Matt Ritzert
DelCorso Family

Advent Candle Lighting
Worship Song & Offering
Prayer

King of Kings

Pastor Robby Stroock

Scripture
Message

John 1:1-14
In the Beginning was...Jesus
Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

Pastor Jared Priset

Communion

Communion is open to all people who confess Jesus as Lord. There will be stations set up in various locations in the Activity Center. After Pastor Jared blesses the elements, you may go to the nearest station where pieces of bread and individual cups have been prepared. After receiving the elements you may return back to your seat. If you are unable to come forward due to physical limitation, the ushers will bring the elements to you as you remain seated. Allergen-free wafers are available at all stations.

Closing Song

Sit Enthroned

Benediction

Sermon Outline

Focus: In John 1:1-14, we read about our God, who did not stay distant, but who lived as God's ultimate message for us, bringing light into the darkness, offering us grace and truth, and inviting us into His family.

I. Jesus, Lord at thy birth

Joey and the nightlight in the dark
God sent us Jesus – the eternal word, full of grace and truth

II. John 1:1-14

John connects Jesus to Genesis 1:1

1. Jesus is the Word – God's ultimate message to us

The Trinity

Thoughts, words, vibrations

The architect – designing the building and also entering it to repair it

2. Jesus brings light to dispel darkness

Jesus illuminates our lives

C.S. Lewis: In the dark **everything** looks the same and it is only in the light that distinctiveness and uniqueness is revealed.

Verse 11: *"He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him."*

Verse 12: *"To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."*

"Children of God": radical transformation in identity, belonging, and relationship

3. Jesus is full of grace and truth (John 1:14)

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Grace and truth together bring life

4. Jesus moves into the neighborhood

"Dwelt among us" --> "pitched His tent"

A God who didn't stay distant

III. ABC – Acknowledge, Believe, and Confess

This month try sharing the Good News by inviting someone to church during the advent or Christmas season.

Visit churchofthelakes.org/good-news for more details about flash prayers

Baptism

Today we celebrate with Tony and Alexia Walsh and family on the baptism of their daughter, Jocelyn Renee Walsh.

Job Openings

Church of the Lakes is hiring a First Assistant Custodian AND a Sunday Custodian. Job descriptions and application can be found at churchofthelakes.org/job-postings. To apply, submit the completed application to mardy@churchofthelakes.org by **December 4th**. You may also get an application from the church office.

Staff Appreciation Gift

Church of the Lakes is blessed with a caring staff of 25 people and the congregation chooses this time of year to express its appreciation. If you would like to donate money to these gifts of love, please put your donation in the specially marked envelope (available at the church office). Make checks payable to Church of the Lakes and clearly mark as "Staff Gift" on the memo line of your check. You can also give online and select "Staff Appreciation Gift" as the designation.

Explore

Widow's Connection

The widow's connection Christmas luncheon will be celebrated on **Tuesday, December 17th**, 11:30 am at The Crush House. Join us for great food, games, and fun. This event is open to the first 24 who respond, then a waiting list will be started. RSVP to Sue Hoffmeyer, 330-704-1774.

Serve

Bakers Needed

We are in need of people to bake simple 13x9 cakes for Jesus' Birthday cake for the Children's Christmas party on Wednesday, December 4th and a variety of Christmas Cookies for Single Mom's Day Out on Saturday, December 7th. If you are able to bake for one or both of these contact Susan Kirkland, skirkland8791@gmail.com or 330-806-7953.

Layers of Hope

Help us collect coats for all ages for Christmas. Layers of Hope is collecting new and slightly used coats. They will be distributed through the Refuge of Hope shelter in Canton at Christmas time. Donations can be placed in the box in the entryway by *December 8th*.

Toy Collection for SAM Center

We are collecting donations of new toys for distribution to military veteran's children (newborn to age 13) through the SAM center for Christmas. Place donations of unwrapped toys in the collection box in the entryway by *December 5th*.

Adopt-a-Child

Thank you to everyone who took a name for Adopt-a-Child. Wrapped and bagged/boxed gifts need to be returned **TODAY by noon**. If you want another way to help, Stark County's Children's Services provides gift cards to individual teens in lieu of donated gifts (they get to choose a \$50 Walmart, Target or Amazon gift card). If you would like to do this, make a check out to Church of the Lakes with 'Project Kare' in the memo and on the envelope.

WAYS TO GIVE

Visit churchofthelakes.org/online-giving or text: **give to 330-961-5524**

Offering envelopes are located in the pew pad clipboards.

For EFT instructions contact Stephanie Strock, stephanie@churchofthelakes.org

Hanging OF THE Greens

DECORATING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 1ST**

STARTS WITH LUNCH
AT 12:15 IN ACTIVITY CENTER



CHILDREN'S PARTY

WORSHIP, CRAFTS, BIBLE STORY & GAMES



WEDNESDAY

4

DECEMBER



- Kindergarten - 6th graders
- 5:30-7:30 pm
- Cost is only \$5
- Register at churchofthelakes.org

SEE YOU THERE!

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS GALA
An evening of fellowship, food, festive atmosphere and prizes

WHEN
Thursday, December 12th
Doors open for shopping at 4:30 pm
Entertainment by Len & Patty Brown begins at 5:30 pm

WHERE
Massillon Women's Club
210 4th St NE, 44646

COST - \$25 PER PERSON

RSVP:
330-499-8972

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Register at churchofthelakes.org



THE STAR
THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

\$2 per person

Join us for pizza dinner & a showing of the movie

THE STAR

Sunday, December 8th

4:30 pm

Church of the Lakes
Activity Center



Surfs Up: escape to the tropics to learn the Beatitudes with the Beati-Dudes!

January 8th - March 19th
Kindergarten - 4th graders

only \$45/child if paid in full or \$5/week
includes dinner & activities
scholarships are available

Register at churchofthelakes.org

5:30 Dinner

6:00 - 7:30 Worship & T-N-T Stations

× Bible Discovery

× Exploration Station

× Recreation

Submit your news, information or announcements to betsi@churchofthelakes.org.



Please pray for: Tom Bair, and Dave Schwab

Our condolences to the family of Charlotte Fowler on her passing.

Our condolences to Denny and Fran Drennan and family on the passing of their grandson, Johnnie Willoughby.

To submit prayer requests call 330-499-8972 ext. 203 or email: prayer@churchofthelakes.org.