



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

Jesus,
Lord at Thy Birth

Traditional Worship - December 22, 2024 - 8:30 & 11:00 am

Entering into the Spirit of Worship

Greeting 8:30 - Tom Beattie 11:00 - Beth Donelan

Prelude *Infanty Holy, Infant Lowly* Lasky

*Call to Worship 8:30 - Sheri Grunwald
11:00 - Beth Donelan

Leader: Lord Jesus, here we are to worship and praise you.

People: You multiplied loaves and fishes, and changed water into wine.

Leader: Remind us, Lord Jesus, that when we live in you,

People: We are new people — new beings — filled with your love!

*Hymn *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (v. 1, 3 & 4) #194

Advent Candle Lighting 8:30 - Matt & Julie Feucht
11:00 - Jim & Wrenn Nicodemo

The Uniting of our Hearts in Prayer

Prayer 8:30 - Sheri Grunwald
11:00 - Sue Hirschman

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 8:30 *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?* Lau
Sanctuary Choir

11:00 *Shout! Sing Hallelujah!* Sorenson
Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading Psalm 126 pg. 500

An Advent Prayer

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love ! These are the gifts you give to us, Jesus. You turn our mourning into dancing, you take our ashes and transform them into beauty. Thank you, Jesus. Help us to come to you, not only when we are sorrowful, but also when we are celebrating. You desire to rejoice with us; for you are the reason we can celebrate. For the sunshine, the rain, the mountains, the seas; for our children, our friends, our homes and the air we breathe -- these are only the beginnings of things we have to be so grateful for. Thank you, Jesus!

Offering our Gifts to God

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring
Bells of the Lakes*

Gramann

***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)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (v. 1 & 3)

#168

Scripture

John 2:1-12

pg. 859

Message

The Joyous Sign of Turning Water into Wine

Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

Pastor Bryan George

Responding With Thanksgiving

Communion

Hymnal pg. 731

Communion is open to all people who are hungry for the Lord's mercy. We will serve the elements in the the pews as the ushers pass the trays of bread and cups of juice. Gluten free bread is available in the plastic packs.

Sending Forth

***Closing Hymn**

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1, 3 & 4)

#192

***Benediction**

Postlude

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella

Lasky

*Those who are able, please stand

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

Acolytes: Basil Johnson & Andrew Nida

Contemporary Worship - December 22, 2024 - 9:30 am

Praise Songs

*Angels We Have Heard on High
King of My Heart*

Welcome

Matt Ritzert

Advent Candle Lighting

The McCabe Family

Worship Song & Offering
Prayer

O Come All You Unfaithful

Amy George

Scripture

John 2:1-12

Message

The Joyous Sign of Turning Water into Wine

Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

Pastor Bryan George

Communion

Closing Song

New Wine

Benediction

Sermon Outline

Focus: The first of the signs of Jesus is supplying the source of abiding joy for a wedding feast. In a world that is often searching for joy in all the wrong places, Jesus reminds us that when we do whatever he tells us, we experience real glory.

- I) "Jesus Lord at thy Birth" The Good News according to John's Gospel
 - First **Message** of Hope: *"In him was life and the life was the light of all people"* (1:4)
 - First **Question** that all need to answer *"What are you looking for?"* (1:38)
 - First **Sign** of his purpose *"Jesus did this the first of his signs and revealed his glory"* (2:11)
- II) A Wedding Faux Pas
 - Guests should never wear white to a wedding: Upstaging the Bride
 - In Jewish culture, running out of wine is a shameful faux pas
- III) Turning Water into Wine (John 2:1-12)
 - Not feeding the multitudes, nor healing the sick but providing gallons of wedding wine!
 - The Jesus way is **not** fun sucking but joy giving!
 - C. S Lewis: *"Joy is the serious business of heaven."*
 - Mary's reaction to a social disaster: *"Do whatever he tells you."* (v. 5)
 - The Servants obeyed and offered a witness to the Glory of the Lord (v. 9)
 - Transforming six water jugs for purification into vessels of life giving joy
 - In the midst of challenging situations, the Lord has different plans
- IV) Where have you been searching for Joy?
 - A store? A bottle? A pill?
 - What happens when a marriage dissolves, a disease expands, or a dream dies?
- V) Jesus followers can drink with joy because he drank the cup of wrath that we deserve
 - "My hour has not yet come"* (v. 4): Reference to his time to die
 - For Christians, joy is found in a feast involving bread and wine, signs of what is coming
 - "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."* (6:53)

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

Connect

Sanctuary Altar Flowers

Please sign up on the chart outside the Christian Education office if you would like to purchase the Sanctuary altar flowers for a specific Sunday during 2025. Cost is \$20, make checks payable to "Church of the Lakes" with your chosen date on the memo line.

Ushers & Greeters

The 2025 usher charts are now posted. The 8:30 service sign-up chart is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. The contemporary services (9:30 & Oasis) sign-up chart is posted on the usher cart in the Activity Center. Consider volunteering for a month or as many weeks as you can. This is a great way to get to know those attending your service.

New Years Eve Communion

We are offering open communion on New Year's Eve, **Tuesday, December 31st**, 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This is a great way to end the holiday season and start off the New Year. Enjoy some quiet prayer time, and receive communion. Come and go as you please.

Explore

New Members Class

Those interested in becoming a Church member, are invited to attend "Pizza with the Pastors" on **Sunday, January 5th**, 12:15 pm in room 206. This informal luncheon will give you an opportunity to visit with our Pastors, and learn more about our church. Then you are invited to attend a four-week class held on Sundays, **January 12th - February 2nd**, 5:00 - 6:30 pm in room 206. New members will be received on *Sunday, February 9th* at the service of their choice. For more information or to register for the class contact the church office, 330-499-8972.

Serve

Volunteers for Winter TNT

If you are willing to serve in any way for our Wednesday evening children's ministry, **January 8th - March 19th**, contact Angela, angela@churchofthelakes.org.

FISH Fund

We have helped 47 families this year. They come to us desperately asking for assistance. They may need food, money for housing or utilities. These requests are from our church family and nearby community. The Fish Fund committee reviews each request and prayerfully makes a decision. We help to the best of our ability and with the funds we have available. We need your support throughout the year to provide a better life for those in need.

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.

WAYS TO GIVE

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

Offering envelopes are located in the back of the pews.

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

Blue Christmas
Service of Remembrance and Hope

December 22nd
4:00 pm



PRESENTED BY CHURCH OF THE LAKES

FAMILY NIGHT
FUN

JESUS in the **HOME**

Bring the whole family to North Canton Entertainment Center for a night of fellowship and fun. Dinner provided

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Cost is just \$5 per person and includes roller skating, laser tag, bumper cars, rock wall and more

Register by January 19th
CHURCHOFTHELAKES.ORG

North Canton Entertainment Center
5475 Whipple Ave NW North Canton, OH 44720

Christmas
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

DECEMBER 23RD - 7:30PM
BLENDED SERVICE WITH CHOIR, PRAISE TEAM

DECEMBER 24TH
3:30PM
PRAISE TEAM, YOUTH PRAISE TEAM, CHERUB & WESLEY CHOIRS
5:30PM
SANCTUARY CHOIR, MEN'S CHORUS, YOUTH BELLS, JOY RINGERS
7:30PM
CHANCEL CHOIR, WOMEN'S CHORUS, BELLS



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: Joan Youngdaul, and Barb Weinke Fearon

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