

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

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## **Prelude**

8:30 - *Ding Dong, Merrily on High* - Cynthia Dobrinski

11:00 - *On Christmas Day in the Morn* - Fred Gramann

## **Opening Liturgy**

*The Holy Family:* Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (Revelation 3:20)

*Leader:* Who will give lodging to these pilgrims who are weary of traveling the roads?

*The Holy Family:* I have come exhausted from Nazareth: a carpenter, by the name of Joseph. In the name of the heavens, I beg you for lodging, my beloved wife can no longer travel.

**People: Although you tell us that you are weary, we do not give lodging to strangers. We don't care what your name is; let us sleep. We are telling you that we will not let you enter.**

*Holy Family:* He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (John 1:10, 12)

**People: Who are the children of God?**

*Holy Family:* All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. (Romans 8:14)

**People: To what does the Spirit of God guide us?**

*Holy Family:* You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37, 39) The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a)

**People: How do we know we love the Lord and have faith?**

*Holy Family:* What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:14-17)

**People: Lodging we will give you with much happiness; enter, good Joseph; enter with Mary. Enter, holy pilgrims. Receive this corner not of this humble home, but of our hearts.**

## **Opening Hymn No. 250\*\* - Once in Royal David's City**

*Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day, like us he grew;*

*he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.*

### **Invocation**

**God all–powerful, grant that we may rid ourselves of the works of darkness, and that we may invest ourselves with the weapons of light in this life to which your Son, Jesus Christ, with great humility came to visit us; so that in the final day, when he returns in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead, we shall rise to eternal life through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading**

Luke 2: 1-7 (New Testament page 58/54)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem (11:00)**

*In dulci jubilo - J.S. Bach*

### **God's Word for Young Disciples**

#### **Anthem**

8:30 - *Ding Dong, Merrily on High* – Smith

11:00 – *And the Glory of the Lord* - G.F. Handel

### **Sermon - Open and Shut**

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **Hymn of Response No. 217 – Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky

and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### ***Discipleship Moment***

#### ***Offertory***

8:30 - *Gesu Bambino* - Pietro Yon

11:00 - *Sing We Now of Christmas* - Kevin McChesney

#### ***Doxology***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### ***Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer***

#### ***Closing Hymn No. 219 – What Child Is This***

*What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*Refrain:*

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

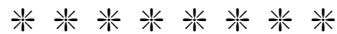
*Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
(Refrain)*

#### ***Benediction and Choral Response (Hymn No. 230)***

***Oh holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.***

***Postlude - Noël X - Grand jeu et duo - Louis-Claude Daquin***



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and are given:

in honor of Nicholas Davis' graduation from Kent State by Wally, Aimee and Jacob Davis;

in honor of the anniversary of Robert and Sharon Anzaldi, by Sharon Anzaldi.

Advent Candlelighters: **8:30** – Walker Family; **11:00** – Kristopher Lewis and Tori Joneikis

Service Music: **8:30** Epworth Choir and Epworth Ringers; **11:00** Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers

### CHURCH NOTES

**Last Opportunity for Nuts!** Head down to Asbury Hall between and after church services and in the church office during the week to purchase delicious nuts for the holiday. We are offering Deluxe mixed nuts and whole cashews for \$10/lb and raw pecans for \$12/lb.

**Advent Remembrance Service: THIS Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00 pm** we will hold our Advent Remembrance Service in the Chapel. This is a way of remembering your lost loved ones or other losses experienced in the past year. If you plan to attend, please bring an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree in memory of your lost loved ones for the service. You may take the ornament home after the service ends.

**Hat & Mitten Mission:** we are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. If you are out shopping and you find gloves/ mittens/ winter hats, or socks, please consider purchasing them for this mission project. We will also collect very gently-used items. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage Trail & 3rd Street.

**Blessings Box:** We are starting to run low on items, so please consider donating canned foods, individual oatmeal packets, ramen noodles, individual fruit cups, individual mac-n-cheese, travel size hygiene items.

Please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table near the library.

**Women's Bible Study:** Join us for a new study, "Chasing Vines" by Beth Moore. In this study, Beth shows us from Scripture how all of life's concerns - the delights and the trials - matter to God. He uses all of it to help us flourish and be fruitful. There are two opportunities to participate: Tuesdays from 7-9 pm and Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. The study will last 12 weeks, beginning January 24 & 25. It uses both the book *Chasing Vines*, and a study guide. The cost for the books is \$18.00. Please register with Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com) by January 16.

**Acme Receipts:** Continue to save your Acme receipts **through December 24** for their Community Cash Back program. The church receives 5% on qualifying products. Receipts may be turned in at the Welcome Center. All receipts will be due by the end of January.

**ROCK Knitting Project:** There are no regular children's programs until January 8, but anyone who would like to continue working on the knitting projects, which were started earlier this fall during ROCK, is invited to a session on Tuesday, December 27, at 2:00 p.m. We will learn how to finish the hats we started and have some time to work together. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome, children or adults

## Next Steps

### Away in a Manger, No Crib for a Bed

*Luke 2:7* – How many songs have drawn inspiration from just these few words?

The innkeepers probably couldn't help but overhear Christ's birth

### Advent Preparation

*katalyma* – guestroom, dining room, "upper room"

"From everything we shut out, we are ourselves shut out." – G.K. Chesterton

Questions for Reflection: What doors in my heart have I kept closed to Christ? Are there areas that I prefer he not enter? What possible freedom from sin or warmth and joy of the Spirit am I shutting out by keeping those doors closed?

Question for Discussion: What Christmas songs have the deepest meaning for you? What about them touches your heart?

Memory Verse: **Colossians 1:27b** – "...this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Readings for this Week: Luke 2:8-14, Ephesians 4:26-5:2, Romans 12:16-21

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 18, 2022**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Scott Adie<br>Bob Ahonen<br>Debbie Amundsen<br>Shirley Asher<br>Mary Ellen Atwood<br>Jim Bailey<br>Behrman family<br>Mark & Cindy Blaser<br>Robert & Patsy Boyd | Larry Brimlow<br>Don Corbett<br>Tom Cully<br>Jim Evans<br>Jean Finnegan<br>Rose Gregory<br>Mary Griest<br>Joyce Haberkost<br>Jim Henes | Gerald Lewis<br>Gus Mercurio<br>Bonnie & Jerry Nine<br>Pat Park<br>Kathi Sawyer<br>David Townsend<br>Mary & Ken Tunstall<br>Marilyn Waller |
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Bill Hunt and his death on 12/11.  
Family of member Dave Gohr on his death on 11/26.