

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/The 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.

Communion (Hymnal p. 13)

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn 213**—*Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates*

Benediction & Congregational Response (Hymn 202, v. 1)**—*People Look East*

Postlude—*Veni Emmanuel*—John Schaffner

Music—One License A-731491

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God.

**Please stand as you are able.

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist

Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

Contact Information

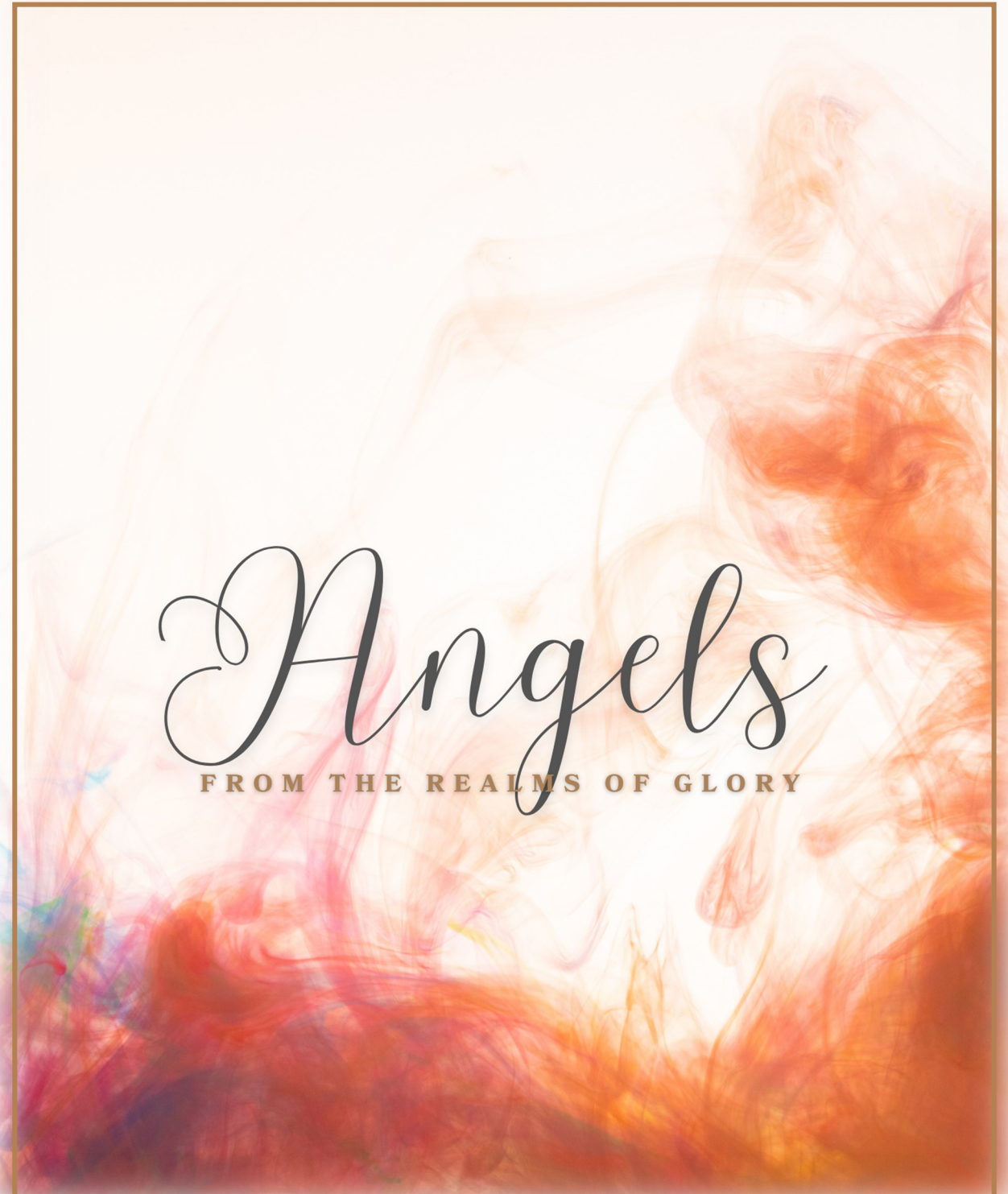
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First Sunday in Advent

10:45 am

December 1, 2024

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* (Hymn #214)—J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

O Israel, hope in the Lord

from this time on and for evermore.

Opening Hymn 211, vs. 1-4** —*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Invocation

Ever present God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son. Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading—*Psalm 25:1-5*

Gloria Patri—*Glory Be to the Father* (Hymnal p. 70)

Advent Candle Lighting—204—*Emmanuel, Emmanuel* (sing before and after liturgy)

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Anthem—*The Desert Shall Blossom Like a Rose*—Gilbert Martin

Epworth Choir

Chad Wagner, Lucy Benson, soloists; Katie Walker, liturgical dance

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading—*Luke 1:5-17*

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

Anthem—*Sing We Now of Christmas* (Hymn #237)—Kyle Pederson

Chancel Choir

Josiah van Dyck, oboe; Phil Lantry, piano

Sermon—“*The Angel's Interruption*”

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*—Anna Laura Page

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #211, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and ordered all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. Refrain.

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain .

4. O come, thou root of Jesse's tree,
an en-sign of thy people be!
Before the rulers silent fall all peoples on thy
mercy call. Refrain.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSE

Hymn #204, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #213, Lift Up Your Heads

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

BENEDICTION

Hymn #202, People Look East

1. People, look East. The time near of the
crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table. People,
look East and sing today; love, the Guest
is on the way.

CHURCH NOTES 12-1-24

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Adie	Bonnie Michaud
Bob Ahonen	Delores Marefka
Joanne Ames	Lee Miller
Debbie Amundsen	Lee Minier
Mary Ellen Atwood	Becky & Jerry Pecko
Dorothy Bates	Becky Petty
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Sandi Robinson
Suzanne Callahan	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Evans	Todd Schneider
Becky Folsom	John Toomey
Mary Griest	Kathy Walker
Jim Henes	Rose Ann Youngkin
Dwight Konic	
Kristopher Lewis	

Deepest Sympathy & Prayers: to Becky Higgins, Sandy Rouse and family on the death on their mother, member Delphia Lowe on 11/9. The family of Becky Folsom, who passed away 11/11. The family of Kathleen Petrone on her death on 10/23.

In our greater world: We pray utility workers. We pray for Barberton Lakeview UMC and Christ Woodland UMC.

Advent Study: Based on the book *God Is in the Manger*. Please contact the office, 330-923-5241, to secure a copy of the book for \$10. The study will meet the first four Mondays in December (2, 9, 16, 23) @7:00pm in the Parlor.

ROCK Reminders: December 4 will be our *Advent Event* during the regular ROCK time of 5:30-6:30 p.m. Music rehearsals will be at 4:30 (Bells and Choir) and snack-supper @5:00. After, we will make a craft, prep the candles for Christmas Eve and begin our Advent celebration! This will be the last 2024 ROCK session. We will resume on January 8, 2025. There will be a music rehearsal on Wednesday, December 11. The children are singing on December 15 and 24.

St. Nicholas Brunch/Santa Shop: Join us December 8, 9:30-12:30am in Wesley Hall. The cost is \$7/adults, \$5/children 3-11, under 3 is free. Questions or to volunteer contact: melinda.chase@gmail.com.

Puzzles & Games Collection: *Acts of Grace Circle* is collecting gently used/new puzzles and board games for all ages during the month of November. They will be distributed to local nursing homes and to Summit Co. Children's Services for Christmas. As always, we appreciate your prayers and support. Games can be dropped off at the *Welcome Center* (label Acts of Grace). Contact Linda Demeter with any questions, 740-334-9290.

Open M Holiday Collection: Open M has begun their Christmas campaign "For the Love of Children." If you would like to donate towards the purchase of gifts for children in need, please mark "Open M Christmas" on your giving envelope. Any amount is appreciated.

Holiday Nut Sale: Purchase your nuts on Sundays, and in the office from 9-3pm/M-F. All proceeds from the sale benefit 2025 Work Camp.

The Master's Singers Chorale: Sunday, December 8 @3:00p in the Sanctuary. This community based chorus is back under the new direction of Marc Weagraff. This performance will feature Schubert's "Mass in E-Flat."

Advent Remembrance Service: Wednesday, December 18 @7:00p in the Chapel. This event is a way we can remember those who have lost loved ones, or experienced other loss 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 one(s). You may take the ornament home after the service ends. *If you know someone who is grieving a relationship, a loss, or the death of a loved one, please invite them to attend.*

The Angel's Interruption

vs. 5 - Why does Luke begin the story about Jesus with Zechariah?

The book of Genesis begins with creation, not sin and the fall

The Image of Christ

God's plans, which unfold through Jesus, do not begin with sin

vs. 14 - Creation is good and through Christ we return to its goodness

Questions for Reflection: When you think about God's saving work in your life, do you tend to think of sin and redemption first? What does it mean to you that God's original design in you is to be and to do good (actually "very good" as a part of the entire creation according to Genesis 1:31)? What deep character traits reveal Christ-likeness and godliness in you?

Questions for Discussion: When God rested, creation was pronounced to be good, even very good. What parts of God's creation reveal goodness to you most clearly?

Memory Verse: Luke 1:14 – "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

Readings for this Week: Luke 1, Genesis 1

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Join Us for Advent
2024



Ecumenical Advent Study: This study runs for four weeks on Monday evenings beginning December 2 @7:00pm in the Parlor. The study is from the book *God Is in the Manger* based on the writing of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Contact the church office to secure a copy of the book for \$10.

ROCK Advent Event: December 4 will be our *Advent Event* during the regular ROCK time of 5:30-6:30pm. Music rehearsals will be @4:30 (Bells and Choir) and snack-supper @5:00. After, we will make a craft, prep the candles for Christmas Eve and begin our Advent celebration.

St. Nicholas Brunch & Shop: Saturday, December 8, 9:30a-12:30p in Wesley Hall \$7/adults, \$5/children 3-11, under 3 is free. Featuring: omelet station, old and new favorites, new surprises, and kids *Santa Shop* with helpers. We will be accepting donations of hats, gloves, and scarves for our community.

The Master's Singers Chorale: Sunday, December 8 @3:00p in the Sanctuary. This community based chorus is back under the new direction of Marc Weagraff. This performance will feature Schubert's "Mass in E-Flat." A free-will offering will be collected.

CFHS Vespers: Saturday, December 14 @7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Featuring Cuyahoga Falls High School Acapella Choir under the direction of Sam Alhadid. A free-will offering will be collected.