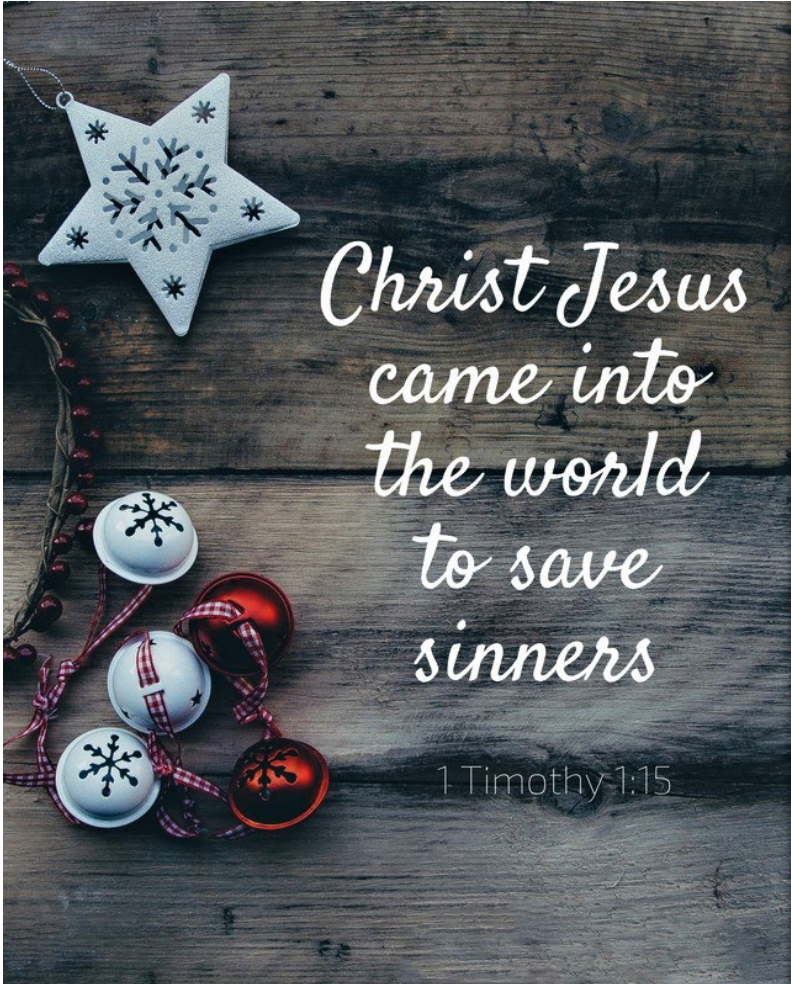


**St. John's:  
Making and Maturing  
Disciples of Jesus Christ**



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
211 EAST CARROL STREET  
KENTON, OH 43326**

# St. John's Evangelical Church

211 East Carrol Street

Kenton, OH 43326

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday (8:30-10:30 & 12:30-2:30)

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## “Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022  
8:00 PM

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### “SOUNDS OF THE SEASON”

*(Let us begin to still our hearts and minds for worship with Christmas Carols.)*

#### Christmas Welcome

##### The Prelude

*The Nativity*

traditional carols

Rogers/Broseke (organ/piano duet)

#### Call to Worship

##### Psalm 98

<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup> He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. <sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! <sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! <sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! <sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together <sup>9</sup> before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

\*Hymn #105

*What Child is This*

Opening Prayer

## Scripture

## Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## \*Hymn #121

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

### Advent Wreath Lighting – Long Ago in Bethlehem

In the village of Bethlehem years ago lived a man who owned an inn where people stayed when they were traveling. His name was Mathan and his wife's name was Lycia. They had one child, an eight-year-old daughter called Susana. She helped her parents run the inn, cleaning the large room where people slept and stacking the pallets when the inn was not full. Mathan and Lycia were devout people who read the Scripture and followed God's law. They taught Susana to do the same.

One evening, as light shone warmly from the window, Susana and her mother listened as Mathan read from God's Word. His voice filled the room as he read from the prophet Isaiah. "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (**Isaiah 7:14**, KJV). Susana loved this story and listened intently as her father continued reading. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called . . . The Prince of Peace" (**Isaiah 9:6**, KJV). Mathan finished reading, closed the book, and they prepared to go to bed. Just then a knock came at the door. Pilgrims had been arriving for days to register for a government census, and the inn was at capacity, but Mathan went to the door anyway. He was considerate to everyone. Susana wondered who was at the door and where they would stay. She went to the window and looked outside. "Oh, come, Mother," she said to Lycia, "the woman is pregnant."

Lycia joined her at the window and looked out at a woman about seventeen and a man some years older. "Very pregnant," her mother added.

"Where will they stay?" Susana asked anxiously.

Her mother touched Susana's arm, smiled at her daughter, and said, "Don't worry. Your father will figure something out. He won't be able to turn them away. Not with the woman pregnant."

Mathan did figure it out. He made a place for the couple out behind the inn in a cave he used as a stable. He put his donkey and three cows over in a corner of the cave and roped it off so this couple could use the rest of it for themselves and for their baby, who surely would be born soon. Mathan came back and the three of them went to bed.

Sometime during the night, Susana was awakened by a noise out behind the inn. It must be coming from the cave where the couple are staying, she thought to herself. She slipped from her bed and over to the window to peek out into the night. As she did, she heard the cries of a baby coming across the yard. "The young woman had her baby," Susana said aloud. As she looked out the window at the sky full of stars, she noticed one star much brighter than the others. In fact, it seemed the star had come to stand right over the cave where her father had housed the couple. In her heart, Susana knew something special was happening and ran out of the house and down to the cave. As she did, she saw men who looked like shepherds leaving the cave, talking excitedly among themselves. "What's going on?" Susana asked, and her question stopped them in their tracks.

They looked at her, all of them smiling broadly, and said, "Messiah was born here tonight."

"Where? What do you mean?" Susana poured forth her questions.

The older of the shepherds replied, "The one Isaiah talked about. Immanuel."

"And Counselor and Mighty God," added another shepherd.

Susana's heart flooded with hope, and her cheeks flushed with joy. The Word of God her father had read that evening stirred in her heart, and she knew what the shepherds said must be true. The one the prophet had talked about had come. Right here in Bethlehem. Right here in her backyard.

Susana said a quick good-bye to the shepherds and ran toward the cave. As she got closer, she slowed her step and then stopped altogether. She approached a henna tree where creamy white, highly scented blossoms hung in clusters like grapes from a vine. She picked one of the clusters, held it tightly in her hand, and entered the cave. (Light the four candles in the wreath AND the Christ candle.)

Prayer: With the faith of a child, may we come to worship and adore You, Immanuel—God with us—this day and forevermore. Amen.

**Special Music**

*Little Drummer Boy*    Natasha & Levi Dyer

**Pastoral Prayer**

# Children's Sermon    The Story of the Candy Cane

Jane Wyndham

**Special Music**

*You're Here*

Sydney Dyer

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 62:6-12**

<sup>6</sup>On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, <sup>7</sup>and give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD has sworn by His right hand and by His mighty arm: "I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored;

<sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of My sanctuary." <sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. <sup>11</sup>Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him." <sup>12</sup>And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

**Special Music**

*Born to be the Savior*

Sherman Girls

**The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-20**

Teresa Broseke

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there

was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them

**Special Music**  
**Sermon**

*O Come All You Unfaithful*  
**He Saved Us**

Beazleys

**Prayer**

**Candle Blessing**

O God, source of all illumination, we celebrate today the coming of Your Word made flesh, Your Light of Life to dwell among us. Bless these holy flames that in their glow we may be blessed by Your grace and abiding love. May these candles remind us of Your steadfast presence. May they give us hope in times of darkness. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world! Amen.

**Candle Lighting** (please dip only an unlit candle)

\*Hymn #117

*Silent Night*

**Benediction**

**Quiet Postlude**



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\*—Those who are able, please stand.

**If you purchased poinsettias, please take them home with you.  
Thank you so much for your continued support of our Youth  
Poinsettia Sale.**



In loving memory of Daniel F. Bushong by Shirley E. Bushong  
In loving memory of Harold, Eileen, Ken, and Don Faler by Jim & Marilyn Bidwell

In loving memory of “Andy” Tice by Grandma Ginny

In loving memory of George and Irene Bidwell by their children

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Loeffler & Gladys Unger by Marilyn Hempy Gordon.

In loving memory of husband, Bruce C. Baker by Jane Baker

In loving memory of parents, Mr. E. Robert and Edna Mae Philips and sister Margaret Jean Philips by Jane Baker

In loving memory of grandparents: Elgin and Ida Mae Wilcox, and E.B. and Grace Philips, and aunts and uncles by Jane Baker

In loving memory of friends and co-workers: Dick Styer, Dean Martino, Connie Harvey, Brett Molk, and Pat Higgins by Jane Baker

In loving memory of George & Loretta Loeffert, Pete & Florence Kirchner, Charles & Dolly Loeffert by Jerry & Sandy Dick and family and Don & Sherry Smith and family.

In loving memory of our grandparents, and father by LeVern & Nancy Weaver

In honor of our parents, children, and grandchildren by Levern & Nancy Weaver

In loving memory of our loved ones that have gone to Glory by Shawn, Tasha, Sydney, and Levi Dyer

In honor of our loving and supportive family by Shawn, Tasha, Sydney and Levi Dyer

In loving memory of JoAnn Erwin by Dan, Heather, Eric, Jada, Kelsey, Jensen, Kylie and Elijah

In loving memory of Robert & Vivienne Hommel by Dick & Carol Wilcox

In loving memory of Thomas (Bud) & Anita Wilcox by Dick & Carol Wilcox

In loving memory of Harold & Faye Rickenbacher by Paul & Nancy Rickenbacher

In loving memory of Erik & Caleb Rickenbacher by Paul & Nancy Rickenbacher

In loving memory of Jay & Esther Zeigler and Marvin & Phyllis Pulfer by Delmar and Linda Zeigler

In loving memory of Carnarius, Zaring, and Temple family members by Lynda Zaring Temple

In loving memory of Clifford & Lillian Elsasser by Hal Elsasser and family

In loving memory of Iona Hanna by Hal Elsasser and family

In loving memory of Carmen Cronley by Hal Elsasser and family

In loving memory of Norbert & Mildred Pohl, Fred & Margaret Corbet, and Gordon R. Donnelly by Gordon and Jane Donnelly

In loving memory of mother, Gladys Clay, by Nancy Clay

In loving memory of grandparents, George & Louise Rader, by Nancy Clay

In loving memory of Richard Ralston by Mary Sorgen Ralston

In loving memory of Shane's grandparents, Paul & Rose Somers, and Sandra's parents, Jack & Viola Evans by Shane Harkenrider & Sandra Evans

In honor of Shane's parents, Joseph & Cheryl Harkenrider and aunt, Diane Somers, by Shane Harkenrider & Sandra Evans

In loving memory of Thomas and Anita Wilcox by Nancy Wilcox and Dave Burkhart

In loving memory of Frieda and Rolland Burkhart by Dave Burkhart and Nancy Wilcox

In loving memory of loved ones by Dave Burkhart and Nancy Wilcox

**Altar Flowers:** The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Max V. and Florence C. Lease and Frederick W. and Ruth Ann (Lease) Kaufmann.

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Ushers: Weaver Family

