

OCCUPY ADVENT

with Church of the Covenant



WELCOME

December 16, 2018

We are glad you are here! Convinced of God's grace, the Church of the Covenant seeks to be a welcoming spiritual home, live God's inclusive love, express Christ's compassion, and do justice in the world.

The Cragin Peal

The McGaffin Carillon

George Leggiero, *Carillonneur*

Prelude

I Wonder as I Wander

Anna O'Connell

Niles, arr. O'Connell

Welcome

Kevin Lowry, *Student and Family Ministries*

* Celebration of Community

Introit

Chinquapin Hunting

Bill Braun, Michael Morgen, Jonathan Moyer

Appalachian Folksong

* Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jim and Nancy Smekal

One: The poet, Mary Oliver, wrote: "If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it...life has some possibility left...Joy is not made to be a crumb." We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy.

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.

Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us. Joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. We open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us and that, even in sorrow and hardship, there can be joy. May we nurture this gift and share it with others.

Generous God, fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.

Let us open our hearts to the celebration of joy, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Let us worship God.

Hymn 145

Rejoice, Ye Pure Heart!

MARION

GATHER

We gather to praise God, confess our sin, and seek God's grace.

ADVENT

"Advent" means coming or arrival. In this season leading up to Christmas, we celebrate Christ's coming and look with longing for Christ to come again. We watch and pray with expectant hope for God's justice and peace.

LAY WORSHIP LEADER

Joan Drushel has been a member of Church of the Covenant for over thirty years, since she was a CWRU student. Her daughters are Christina, Elanor, Diana, and Gretchen, and she has two grandchildren, Julian and Charlotte. Joan also has worked for 30 years as a neonatal nurse at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

* Call to Confession Joan Drushel, *Lay Worship Leader*

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you appointed Advent as a time to prepare, rejoice, and share. But we fret rather than prepare, complain rather than rejoice, and hoard rather than share. We often give to others out of a feeling of obligation, not love. Help us to reach out to our neighbors from our hearts and not just our wallets. Help us to do things *with* people, not just for people. Help us to pray with those who need our time and attention, rejoice with those who need our praise and encouragement, and share our time and love with all. Help us make rejoicing not just a silent prayer to you, but a gift to everyone in our words and actions.

* Silent Confession of Sin

* Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Friends, hear the good news! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Friends, believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* Gloria

Hymn 23, refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer for Illumination

Joan Drushel

First Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Shiloh from Christmas Flourish

William Billings, arr. Bass

Methinks I see an heav'nly host of angels on the wing

Methinks I hear their cheerful notes, so merrily they sing:

Let all your fears be banish'd hence, glad tidings I proclaim

For there's a savior born today and Jesus is his name.

The master of the inn refus'd a more commodious place,

Ungen'rous soul of savage mould, and destitute of grace.

The royal guest you entertain is not of common birth,

But second in the great, I Am, the God of heav'n and earth.

To God the Father, Christ the Son, and Holy Ghost ador'd,

The first, the last, the last, the first eternal praise afford.

Time for Young Disciples

Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum, *Associate Pastor*

Parting Response

VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to thee O Israel.

MUSIC NOTES

Today we celebrate American Christmas music through two colonial period traditions. Anna O'Connell presents her arrangement of an American carol for harp and voice. A trio of artists share music in the style of Appalachian folk tunes. Covenant member Bill Braun started playing Appalachian music on the guitar in 2016. He started to study the banjo the same year. In the last several years he has repeatedly argued that just one more instrument is all he needs! Michael Morgen began learning old-time fiddle in 2005 at the Folk School of St. Louis. In 2015, he moved to Cleveland to practice neuro-ophthalmology at UH and happily discovered the strong and welcoming music community of Northeast Ohio. Our own Jonathan Moyer joins them on organ. Second, the Chancel Choir sings *Shiloh* (1781), by Boston composer William Billings, who was largely a self-taught musician. The choir sings using an authentic technique, made popular by New England singing schools of the 18th century: some tenors sing the melody line (the traditional soprano line) with sopranos to place a heavier emphasis on the tune.

Second Lesson

Matthew 19:16-22

ENCOUNTER

We receive the good news of God’s love, mercy, and justice revealed to us in the Bible.

RESPOND

Having heard God’s word proclaimed, we offer music, prayers, and a portion of the financial resources we have received. Scan the QR code below to access online giving. Thank you for your generous response to God’s gracious love!



SEND

Having been nurtured and nourished through worship, we are sent from this place to glorify God in the service of our daily lives. Please be mindful of those who wish to stay and listen to the postlude.

TODAY

- 8:00 Music Rehearsal
- 9:30 Nursery, *Creche*
- 10:00 Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 Pageant Prep
- 11:30: Giving Tree Celebration, *Dowd Commons*
- 12:30 Sci. of Spirituality, *Sonia Golden Room*
- 3:00 Session Open House, *Off-site*
- 5:00 YPG, *Off-site*

One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Melanie Marsh Baum

Give It All Away

* Hymn 7

MIT PREUDEN ZART

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, *Pastor*

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Petition

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Congregational Amen

AMEN VENI EMMANUEL

All are invited to sing.

A - men, A - - - men, A - - - - - men.

Offertory

Bill Braun, Michael Morgen, Jonathan Moyer

Joisie-o

Appalachian Folksong

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 14

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Savior of the Nations

* Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Bill Braun, Michael Morgen, Jonathan Moyer

Mississippi Sawyer

Appalachian Folksong

Carillon Postlude

Veni Emmanuel

Roy Hamlin Johnson

A Stephen Minister will be in Christ Chapel after worship to talk or pray.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER COVENANT COMMONS Join us TODAY for our annual Giving Tree Celebration as we make music together and offer gifts to outreach partners. On December 23rd join a discussion of the book *Before I Had the Words*, by YouTube personality and transgender advocate Skylar Kergil. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

USHERS TODAY ARE John Bromelmeier, Chris & Marilyn Langmack, and Paul Williams. **GREETERS TODAY ARE** Arnold & Susan Dahm

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL GROUP (YPG): We will be having our holiday progressive dinner tonight! We will gather at for appetizers at 5pm at Paladar in Eton Plaza, followed by main course at Bomba at Beachwood Place, and dessert at the Cheesecake Factory in Legacy Village. Join us for any or all of the meal. See Melanie Marsh Baum for more information.

MUSIC CONCERTS: Tuesday Noon Organ Concerts: December 4th, 11th, and 18th at 12:05-12:45pm. Music and Readings for the Season. **McGaffin Carillon Concerts:** Monday-Friday, December 17th-31st (except the 18th & 25th), 12:15 pm.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES: Deacons are asking for cookie donations for their Christmas luncheon at Ernest J. Bohn Senior Center on Tuesday, December 18. Please bring cookies labeled for Ernest Bohm to the church office.

HOMELESS STAND DOWN: While you are doing your Christmas shopping, remember to buy items to support the Homeless Stand Down. The following items are needed: new/gently used coats (XL only), winter boots (waterproof), new men's and women's underwear, new men's and women's socks, and new/gently used scarves, hats and gloves. The deadline for items is Sunday, December 30.

WE PRAY FOR: Judy Bourne, Sylvia Clapp (Sandy Ammon's mother), Akeya Clark (Marie Jones's niece), Clay/Newton Family, Marlene & Paul Dirksen, Rob Engel & Lynne Hoffman-Engel, Megan & Ella Fakan, Marlene & William Finkenthal (David Finkenthal's parents), Anthony Frank, Rolf (Crunch) and Marilyn Krotseng, Greg Madison, Barbara McGhee, Gene Papp, Bette Posch, Carol Roe, Noelene Joy Rout, Danita Wells, Anne Wombwell deConingh and Gabriel (Jenny Conner's grand-nephew). We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or homebound; patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals; and those who have left prayer requests in our Carpenter's Box.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: Monday: Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm; **Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, Office, 9:45 am; Cache Retail Shop, 10 am-4 pm; Bible Study, Library, 11 am; Noon Organ Concert, Sanctuary, 12 pm; Deacons' lunch, Earnest Bohn Center, 12 pm; **Wednesday:** Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm; Staff Christmas Lunch, Off-Site 12:30 pm (note: **the church office will be closed** from 12:15 pm until 2:15 pm); Twelve Steps to Freedom, Beckwith Hall, 5:30 pm; **Thursday:** Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm; Theology on Tap, The Jolly Scholar, 5:30 pm; Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:00 pm; **Friday:** Food Pantry, Office, 10:00 am-Noon; Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm; **Saturday:** Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 12 pm.

LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS:

All the members of the church

Amy Starr Redwine,

Senior Pastor

Melanie Marsh Baum,

Associate Pastor

Kevin Lowry, Interim Dir. of Student and Family Ministries

Matthew Garrett,

Music Director

Jonathan Moyer, Organist

George Leggiero, Carillonneur

SESSION

Will Klein, Clerk of Session,

clerk@covenantweb.org

CLASS OF 2019: Jenny Conner,

LaShawna Adams Mitchell, Jin

Smekal, Lou Stark

CLASS OF 2020:

Kitty Jarjisian, Chris

Langmack, Suchi Nelson

CLASS OF 2021: Barb Clint,

Elizabeth Hagen, Reaver

Nelson, Omar Siddiq, Jim

Tomaszewski

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2019: Matthew

Garrett, Marjorie Heines, Beth

Holbein, Pat Owen-Keltner,

Mildred Russin, Liz Shriver,

Ann Stark

CLASS OF 2020: Tom Denbow,

Stephanie Johnson, Julie

Mailey, Lucy & Nancy Matz,

Lynda Starr

CLASS OF 2021: Stacey Booker,

Dan Carroll, Cathy Luck, Ken

Rock, Ryan Szafranec

TRUSTEES

CLASS OF 2019: Russell Hack,

Ann Williams

CLASS OF 2020: Jim Prince,

Harriet Wadsworth

CLASS OF 2021:

Patty Fowler, Nancy Smekal

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

Martha Goble, President

Keith Kallay, Treasurer

Jim Mate, Secretary

