

OCCUPY ADVENT

w/Church of the Covenant



WELCOME

December 23, 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

Angelus ad pastores ait

Jonathan Moyer, organ

Heinrich Scheidemann

Two Etudes

Stuart Vokes and Christopher Moyer, guitars

Julio Sagreras

Welcome

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, *Pastor*

* Celebration of Community

Introit

Share God's Love

Children's Choir

German folk song, adapt. Mark Patterson

Take the light of Christ to the world, serving others wherever you go.

Share God's hope, share God's love.

* Lighting of the Advent Candle

Marie and Craig Jones,

Keasia and Raymond

One: The poet, George Herbert, wrote: "Love bade me welcome, but my soul drew back."

All: It's hard to take in the enormity of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Today we light the fourth Advent candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love because God loves us.

Whatever we face in life, God's steadfast love surrounds us.

GATHER

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

ADVENT

Today is the fourth and final Sunday of 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.

As these candles are lit, as we worship God, let us open our lives to the creative power of hope, the peace that comes from justice, the joy that cannot be contained, and the love of God that has the power to transform us.

We open our hearts to love, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

* Hymn 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

* Call to Confession

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

Creator God, you created us to be whole people. But we have become fragmented, cracked and broken. We have been broken by false promises, lost relationships, shattered trust. We have become cracked with the experience of systemic sin: prejudice, oppression, and fear. We have become fragmented, building up walls instead of lending hands. Forgive us when we have done the breaking; heal us where we have been hurt. Let your light shine through our cracks and scars so that we might bring light to the world, showing that in you we are made whole. Amen.

* Silent Confession of Sin

* Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Friends, hear the good news! God is the potter; we are the clay. When we are cracked and broken, God helps to bring us back together. God uses every piece, and offers us newness of life to begin again. 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

Kevin Lowry, *Student and Family Ministries*

First Lesson

Isaiah 11:6-9

Second Lesson

Luke 1:5-25

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

* Hymn 41, v. 1&2

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTÉ FIDELIS

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum, *Associate Pastor*

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Petition

FOOD COLLECTION

Today, we will have boxes in the back of the sanctuary to collect food and financial donations for our Covenant Food Pantry, open the last Wednesday and Friday of each month, Thursday afternoons in the Connection Center for students, and for emergencies. Did you know that one in every six people in Cuyahoga County are food insecure and that nationwide thirty-six percent of individuals enrolled in four-year colleges and universities report low to very low food security? We are a place in this neighborhood that people can come and be fed. Thank you for your support of this important ministry

ENCOUNTER

We receive the good news of God's love, mercy, and justice revealed to us in the Bible. The Word is proclaimed in scripture, sermon, and, on some Sundays, through the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

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.



Offertory

Covenant Choir

Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Flowing? French Carol, arr. Willcocks

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like I'd come a-blowing, Shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, Stealing our senses all away?

What is that light so brilliant, breaking Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the day-star waking, Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking Here in the night across our eyes?

Bethlehem! There in manger lying, Find your Redeemer, haste a way,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Savior born today.
Bethlehem! There in manger lying, Find your Redeemer, haste a way.

Praise to the Lord of all creation, Glory to God the fount of grace;
May peace abide in ev'ry nation, Goodwill in men of ev'ry race.
Praise to the Lord of all creation, Glory to God the fount of grace.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

All children not in the pageant are invited to come forward and sit around the narrator.

The Promise Foretold

I Love to Tell the Story

Children's Choir
Anna Laura Page

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do. I love to tell the story, it will be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. Tell me of Jesus, a story so dear, tell me of Jesus, who always is near. Tell me a story of grace from above, of Jesus, our Savior, and his unending love.

The Birth of John the Baptist

RESPOND

Having heard God's word proclaimed, we respond with music, prayers, and by offering to God a portion of the financial resources we have received.

Scan the QR code below to access online giving, where you can make a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation. Thank you for your generous response to God's gracious love!



MUSIC NOTES

The fourth Sunday of Advent features our annual presentation of the Christmas Pageant, a tradition that Covenant has enjoyed for multiple generations. We share the good news of the Christmas story through music, narration, costumes, and acting. We give thanks to our children, youth, musicians, staff, and adult volunteers for their many hours of preparation.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Mary's Song, The Magnificat

Midori Marsh, soprano
Meg Baker

O, magnify the Lord with me, for he is worthy to be praised, and holy is God's name. God is merciful to all, blessing every generation. God shows his strength throughout creation. God has scattered all the proud, and has lifted up the lowly, satisfied the hungry with every good thing. It's exactly as he said, what was spoken through the prophets. God gave his word just as he promised.

The Birth of Jesus and the Shepherds

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Children's Choir
Wesley D. Peters

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around. "Fear not!" Said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind. "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

The Magi

We Three Kings

John Marsh, Tom Denbow, Frank Repasi, Marie Jones

We three (*or four!*) kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

The True Meaning of Christmas

* Hymn 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

* Charge & Benediction

Carillon Postlude

Veni Emmanuel

ST. LOUIS

Roy Hamlin Johnson

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

SEND

Having been nurtured and nourished through worship, we are sent from this place to glorify God in the service of our daily lives.

TODAY

8:00 Music Rehearsal
10:00 Worship & Pageant, Sanctuary
11:30: Reception, Reception Room
11:30: Youth Pizza Party, Living Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER COVENANT COMMONS The Book Discussion for Skylar Kergil's *Before I Had the Words* will be postponed until the spring as we want to offer this in a time and place that will allow for a meaningful conversation around the topic of gender and faith. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

USHERS TODAY ARE Martha Goble, Keith Kallay, and Jim Prince. **GREETER TODAY IS** Shirley Thompson

MCGAFFIN CARILLON CONCERTS: Monday-Friday, December 17th-31st (except the 18th & 25th), 12:15 pm.

YEAR-END GIVING: Thank you for your generous gifts and pledges in 2018. In order for your contribution to be tax deductible for calendar year 2018, it must be dated in December and received or postmarked in December 2018. You can still fulfill your 2018 pledge after December 31, 2018, but it will be counted for tax purposes in 2019. If you have made individual contributions of \$250 or more, do not file your federal income tax return until you receive a contribution statement from the Church. All donors will receive their contribution statements in January 2019. Thank you for your faithful support of Church of the Covenant that exists to further the Kingdom of God in this world.

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), Marlene & Paul Dirksen, Rob Engel & Lynne Hoffman-Engel, Megan Fakan and Ella Fakan, Marlene & William Finkenthal (David Finkenthal's parents), Anthony Frank, Rolf (Crunch) and Marilyn Krotseng, Greg Madison, Maggie McDaniel, Barbara McGhee, Nicole Murray, Newton/Clay Family, Gene Papp, 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; Family Candlelight Service, Sanctuary, 5 pm; Carillon Prelude, 7 pm; Instrumental Prelude, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm; Traditional Candlelight Service, Sanctuary, 8 pm; **Tuesday:** Church office closed: Merry Christmas! **Wednesday:** Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm; Church office closed; **Thursday:** Carillon Concert, 12:15 pm; **Friday:** Carillon Concert, 12:15 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

Kaori Hongo Moyer,

Director Children & Youth

Music

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

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: MESSENGERS OF GOD

Kaori Hongo, Director

Narrator	Collin Denbow	Magi	John Marsh Tom Denbow
Mary	Sarah Redwine		Frank Repasi
Joseph	Quinn Redwine		Marie Jones
Baby Jesus	James Baum		
		Angels	Gwyneth Vokes George Redwine Marley Langmack Ivy Langmack Violet Marsh
Zachariah	Max Haiss		
Elizabeth	Ronnie Bromelmeier		
John the Baptist	Matthew Otis Bromelmeier III		
Angel Gabriel/Star	Christopher Moyer	Farm Animals	Lena Baum CJ Gressley Maren Shriver Havanna Stewart Lee Stewart
Herod	Michael Peters		
Innkeeper	Mia Jolee Lewis		
Sheep	Tessa de Boer Flak Quinn Castilla Eloise Castilla	Costumes	Sybil Marsh
Shepherds	Kaileigh Mitchel Keasia Jones Samuel Moyer Holden Vokes		