

December 4, 2022 Advent Peace From Generation to Generation: God Meets us in our Fear

Mantua Center Christian Church Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Arms Rev. Chad Delaney, Senior Minister

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If you choose to attend in person, please be aware of the following:

- Please use your discretion on masking, handshakes, and hugs as each person feels comfortable. Thank you for your patience, prayers, and feedback.
- This worship service is being live streamed. If you have any concern about you or your child being live on YouTube, please stay behind the 5th row of pews.
- The nursery has been cleaned and sanitized and is available if needed for your children. There are also coloring sheets at the entrance of the church.
- After the Children's Moment, all kids through 4th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School class which will run until the end of worship.
- We have resumed the passing of communion. If you prefer, we have sealed "personal" communion cups available at the entrance. Offering baskets will be passed around the sanctuary at the start of the "Invitation to Generosity" during worship. (You may also *Give Online* at: mantuacentercc.org).

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 4, 2022 Advent Peace

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Almighty King"

Sarah Park

[by F. De Giardini]

WELCOME Rev. Chad Delaney

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Katie Baird

Evie Brant, Everett Baynes, Travis Brant, Nora Brant

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#119, v. 2

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pam Auble

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Invitation Katie Baird
Offertory

Music: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" [by R. H. Prichard]

The Doxology #46

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.

Offering Prayer Katie Baird

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Chad Delaney

"Away in a Manger"

#147, v. 1-3

- 1 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.
- **2** 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.
- **3** Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

SPECIAL MUSIC "There's a New Kid in Town"

Vince Meier

[Words and Music by Don Cook, Curly Putman, & Keith Whitley]

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

Rev. Chad Delaney

ONE: Patient God, in times of anxiousness, we have sometimes made decisions from a place of fear rather than love.

ALL: In times of uncertainty, we allow fear to take the place of reason, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.

ONE: Too often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid" in the back room and give fear the front row seat.

ALL: Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.

ONE: Silence in us the voices of scarcity, shame, rejection, and hatred,

ALL: Grant us your peace, re-center us in your love. With hope we pray, Amen.

*COMMUNION

Meditation **Drema Herron Communion Hymn**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Prayer & Lord's Prayer Words of Institution

Drema Herron Rev. Chad Delanev

#124, v.1

Music: "Alas! And Did my Saviour Bleed?" [by R. E. Hudson]

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-40

"God Meets us in our Fear" **SERMON Rev. Chad Delaney**

*CLOSING HYMN "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #153, v. 1-4

> 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to all from heaven's all-gracious King!" The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing; and ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 And you beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;

O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Chad Delaney

POSTLUDE

"Tis so Sweet to Walk with Jesus" [by A. B. Simpson]

Sarah Park

Thank you for joining us at Mantua Center Christian Church.

- All are welcome to join in any of our Sunday classes following worship:
 - (1) "Seeking Enlightenment" led by Rev. Nancy Humes,
 - (2) "Life 101" led by Carol Buzbee
 - (3) Sunday School for grades 5th-12 led by Rev. Chad Delaney.
- Please note that every Sunday during the month of December, we will be collecting staple food items for Kids Weekend Meals. (ie. Mac & Cheese, Canned Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Green Beans or Corn, Puddings in cups non refrigerated, Sugar Free Dole fruit cups in 100% juice non refrigerated, and any individually wrapped treats or cookies) We will resume the collection for the 4C's on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023.
- Don't forget our MCCC Christmas Party is next Saturday! (1-4pm, then caroling afterward. Please bring appetizer or "finger food" to share, and a homemade gift to exchange, if desired. Bring one, Get one!)