



December 11, 2022

Advent Joy

From Generation to Generation: *We Can Choose a Better Way*

Mantua Center Christian Church

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Arms

Rev. Chad Delaney, Senior Minister

Pastor's Contact: 330-569-4926

pastormccc@gmail.com

www.mantuacentercc.org

WiFi pw: mccc1827

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).

repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Carli Delaney & Ryan Delaney

"10,000 Reasons / What A Beautiful Name"

[Words and Music by Myrin Jonas Carl Gustaf, Redman Matt, Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligerwood]

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

Rev. Chad Delaney

ONE: God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to
be gracious,

ALL: to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt.

ONE: A million times a day we could choose the better way, and so often
we don't.

**ALL: Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the
wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge.**

ONE: Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.

ALL: Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.

ONE: Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.

**ALL: Give us the courage to zoom out, to love even bigger than
before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.**

***COMMUNION**

Meditation

Communion Hymn

"All Earth is Waiting"

Sue Wright

139, v.1-2

1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
one whose name is 'God with us' our Savior shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Special Music:

Sue Wright

Rev. Chad Delaney

Carli & Ryan Delaney

"Draw Me Close/Breath" [Arr. by Caleb + Kelsey]

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

*CLOSING HYMN

“How Great our Joy!”

#170, v. 1-2, & 4

1 While by the sheep we watched at night, lo, there appeared an angel bright:

Refrain:

**How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high! Glory to God who reigns on high!**

2 Born is the Child, in manger small, whom God has sent to save us all. *[Refrain]*

4 Jesus, the gift from heav'n above fills all our hearts with joy and love. *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Chad Delaney

POSTLUDE

“There’s Sunshine in My Soul Today”

Sarah Park

[by J. R. Sweney]

*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, Alfredo Sauce, Peanut Butter, 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.**