



December 10, 2023

Advent Peace

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We find joy in connection . . .

Mantua Center Christian Church
Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Arms
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Pastor – Rev. Chad Delaney

Pastor's Contact: 330-569-4926

pastormccc@gmail.com

Website: www.mantuacentercc.org

Wifi pw: mccc1827



If you decide to attend in person, please note the following:

- The upstairs nursery is available for your children. There are also coloring sheets at the entrance for the children.
- After the Children's Moment, all kids through 4th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School class which will run through the end of worship.
- We pass 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." (You may also *Give Online* at: mantuacentercc.org).
- **Hearing Assistance is now available at MCCC!** Please see Carol Magyarics (our video tech) for help in setting this up.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 10, 2023
Advent Peace
How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
We find joy in connection . . .

PRELUDE

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
[by R. H. Richard]

Sarah Park

“THIS IS THE DAY!”

#286

This is the Day *(This is the Day)*
that the Lord has made *(that the Lord has made)*
We will rejoice *(we will rejoice)*
And be glad in it *(and be glad in it)*
This is the Day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the Day *(This is the Day)*
that the Lord has Made!

WELCOME

Rev. Chad Delaney

~ Invitation for Mission Updates

*Ministry Leaders and congregants are welcome to come forward to the mic,
to give a mission update or share ways for people to
get involved in missions and ministries.*

Announcements

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Beth Voynovich & Laura Parker

***OPENING HYMN**

“When God is a Child”

#132, v. 2

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. **[Refrain]**

[Refrain]

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE &
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Ryan Lind

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Invitation

Katie Baird

Offertory

Music

“Little Town of Bethlehem”

Sarah Park

[by L. H. Redner]

*The Doxology

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#119, v. 4

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

[Refrain]

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

Offering Prayer

Katie Baird

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Chad Delaney

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Advent Sky”

Jan Green

[by Edward Broughton]

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION

Rev. Chad Delaney

ONE: God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**ALL: We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the
best of us.**

ONE: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

ALL: We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

ONE: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**ALL: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to
throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy
in connection.**

ONE: We come before God with the truth of our lives and God meets us there

**ALL: We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. And we are
sent to serve. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Meditation

Katie Baird

*Communion Hymn

“I Wonder as I Wander”

#161, vs. 1-4

1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

2 When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.

3 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

4 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Prayer
Words of Institution
Music

Rev. Nancy Humes
Rev. Nancy Humes
Sarah Park

“What Can Wash Away My Sin”
[by R. Lowry]

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:24-45

Rev. Chad Delaney

SERMON

“We Find Joy in Connection”

Rev. Chad Delaney

***CLOSING HYMN**

“There’s a Song in the Air”

#159, vs. 1-3

1 There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

2 There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
See, the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!

3 We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng,
and we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,
and we greet in the cradle our savior and king.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Chad Delaney

POSTLUDE

“Standing on the Promises”
[by R. K. Carter]

Sarah Park

*Thank you for joining us at
Mantua Center Christian Church!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- * **Hearing Assistance** is now available at MCCC! Ask Carol Magyarics, our video technician, for setup tips!
- * **The FREE CLOTHING & DIAPER GIVEAWAY IS THIS SATURDAY, DEC. 9TH FROM 9AM-12PM** at the St. Joseph Church school building in Mantua!! This is the last event of the year. Everything is free for the taking. If you would like to help out this organization, they are in need of new packages of diapers in sizes 4, 5, & 6, & LARGE black trash bags. Questions? Contact Lynn Kelley at (330) 990-8912. This is a collaborative effort of area churches. Churches working together – PERFECT!
- * **MCCC'S Annual ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY** is this Saturday, Dec. 9th from 3-7pm. See the flyer attached to this email, or on the bulletin board in the front entrance of the church. Hope to see you there!
- * **Devotionals for the Advent Season** are available in the entrance of the church and are free for the taking! If you would like to read it via the online version, please use this link to access: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/136123036/> Please do NOT share this link on social media or any other website to protect the resources of Sanctified Art.
- * **If you forgot to fill out and return your Pledge Cards on Nov. 26th,** bring them this Sunday and place them in the offering plate, OR mail them with the self-addressed envelope you received.
- * **Poinsettia Orders & money are due THIS SUNDAY, Dec. 10th at 12 noon** following Sunday Classes! Please turn in everything to Sandi Kossick.
- * **"Story Time"** for preschoolers, accompanied by an adult is **every Tuesday, from 10:30-11:30am.** EVERYONE IS INVITED! What a fun way to share some one-on-one time with your child, grandchild, or niece/nephew!! Contact Pam Auble with any questions: 216-308-7930.
- * Come join us **every Wednesday** from **1:15-2:30pm** for our **"Dwelling in the Word"** (Daytime Fellowship) led by Pastor Chad, or from **7-8:30pm** for our **"Life Study"** gathering led by Jon Secaur. What wonderful mid-week events we have available in fellowship and Bible studies!
- * Attention all **Knitters & Crocheters!** **Meet us at the Hilltop Church from 1:30-3:00pm on Monday, Dec. 18th** (usually the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month). All are welcome with their yarn projects or hand work creations for chit-chat and show and tell! Questions? Contact **Kathy Meier at: 330-840-8944.** Want to learn a new skill? Come join us and learn - *Prayer Shawls are always in need!*
- * **Please check out our NEWISH "Card/Care Station"** (put together through the combined efforts of the **Trustees and the Smile Team**) outside the Fellowship Hall, near the restrooms. **We have current MCCC Congregational Lists, and Prayer Lists for the taking!** We also have a nice selection of cards to choose from. There is a basket on the left-hand bulletin board to drop your card in - AND a Smile Team member will even mail it for you! There's nothing better than knowing that someone is thinking of you! Write out a card today! **It's FREE!**
- * **The 4C's (Crestwood Coalition for Community Care) next food collection is Sunday, December 24th.** Items needed for DECEMBER are: **Dish Soap, Jello, & Canned Spaghetti.** *Monetary Donations are also welcome.* Many thanks to all at MCCC for supporting the 4C's!
- * **REMEMBER!** Please check with one of the Trustees to see if we can accept and can accommodate any donated items before dropping them off at the church. The Trustees are: Paul Meeker 330-357-6392, Pat Hoskin 440-223-6351, Brian Summerlin 440-667-9437, Randy Alger 330-221-5800, & Dale Ausperk 440-382-9971. **Thank you to the Trustees and anyone who helped do the painting on the inside of the church! It is so appreciated by ALL!!**