



**December 29, 2024**  
***Celebrating Christmas***

**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](mailto:pastormccc@gmail.com)*

*Website: [www.mantuacentercc.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend Sunday School class which will run through the end of Sunday Classes at 12pm.
- **Hearing Assistance is now available at MCCC!** Please see Carol Magyarics or Rick Painley (our video techs) for help in setting this up.
- **Want to schedule a meeting with Chad?** Click on the following link or check our website!  
<https://calendly.com/pastormccc/meeting?month=2024-02>.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 29, 2024

*“Celebrating Christmas”*

PRELUDE “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Sarah Park

WELCOME Rick Painley

*~ 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*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Oscar Russo

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Oscar Russo

ONE: Today, we light all the candles, remembering that God has invited us all.

**ALL: We accepted God’s invitation to plan and prepare throughout  
the season of Advent.**

ONE: We welcomed the coming of Christ into the world and celebrated together  
that God walks among us.

**ALL: And while Jesus came only to stay awhile on earth, he now  
joins us through the power of the Holy Spirit. God with us!**

ONE: Through the Spirit, may we remember that in God’s kingdom,  
there are no strangers.

**ALL: May we share in God’s generosity and invite all people to share  
in God’s love.**

*written by Kara Eidson*

\*OPENING HYMN “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” #150, vs. 1-3

**1** Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

**2** Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

**3** Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Invitation

Oscar Russo

Offertory

Music:

**“Joy to the World”**

Sarah Park

**\*Response**

**“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**

#134

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Offering Prayer

Oscar Russo

## CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rick Painley

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**“Carol Rhapsody”**

*[by Richard Purvis]*

Jan Green

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rick Painley

## SCRIPTURE

**Luke 2:41-52**

## SERMON

**“Lost and Found”**

Rick Painley

## HOLY COMMUNION

Meditation

Katie Baird

**\*Communion Hymn**

**“How Great Our Joy”**

#170, vs. 1, 3, 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!**

**3** Go you this night, and you shall find  
the Savior born for humankind. *[Refrain]*

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

Prayer

Ally Bozeka

Words of Institution

Ally Bozeka

Music:

**“Blow, Ye Winds, Softly”**

Jan Green

*[by Ruth Keys Kennelly]*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

**#167, vs. 1-3**

**BENEDICTION**

**Rick Painley**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**“Go in Peace”**

**#445**

Go in Peace and the Peace of God be with you this day.  
Go in Peace and the Peace of God be with you always.  
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate New life!  
Go in Peace and the Peace of God be with you always.

**POSTLUDE**

**“What Child is This”**

**Sarah Park**

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

**Special thanks to Jan Green and Sarah Park  
for sharing their musical talents this morning!**



## MCCC Announcements - December 29, 2024

\* Please note that hearing assistance is available at MCCC! Ask our tech crew Carol Magyarics or Rick Painley for set-up tips.

\* Last chance to write down your Random Act of Kindness on the clipboard in the entry of the church! Let's help change the world one kind act at a time!

1) **The winner for our Kids Weekend Meals RAFFLE FUNDRAISER was picked last Sunday and was Sandi Kossick!** Many thanks to Cathy Hakala-Ausperk who generously gave of her time and talent to make this beautiful Christmas cross stitch as a fundraiser for KWM. Kids Weekend Meals won more than \$300 on the raffle!

2) **The next "4<sup>th</sup> for the 4C's" food collection will be Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025 during worship.** Items needed for January are: Pasta Sauce, Cookies, Individual cups of Mac & Cheese, and Canned Pasta. Remember, NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL when combined with others!

3) **Chi-Rho (grades 6-8) will gather for the "Lock-in" on January 3-4 (6pm-10am) at Hiram Christian Church.** Bring a friend or two!! If you have any questions, please contact Chris McCreight at [chris@hiramchristianchurch.org](mailto:chris@hiramchristianchurch.org).

4) **Adult Classes**, following worship, in full swing! "Life 101" led by Carol Buzbee, "The Seekers" led by Nancy Humes and "The Bible & Beyond" led by Jon Secaur. All are welcome to attend any of the 3 classes.

5) **Attention Knitting & Crocheting Group!** We will be meeting at Hilltop Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in December from 1:30-3pm! (Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>) All yarn and hand work project creators are welcome to come, work on their projects, and visit!

6) **Story Time, (for preschoolers), is every Tuesday from 10:30-11:30am when school is in session.** This is a fun opportunity for young children (and their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) to engage in songs, stories, crafts, and more! This is a Free event. Please spread the word to others who may have preschoolers who might enjoy this weekly break. Any questions? Contact Pam Auble at [auble4@windstream.net](mailto:auble4@windstream.net).

7) **Bible Study "Dwelling on the Word" with Pastor Chad** will resume on every Wednesday starting January 8th, between 1:15-2:30, and Life Study will resume "tentatively" on January 8<sup>th</sup> and every Wednesday thereafter, from 6:30-8pm. We will keep you posted on any changes!

8) **The Next Free Clothing & Diaper Giveaway is Saturday, Feb. 8th, 2025.** You can continue donating your gently used clothing, neatly placed in a plastic bag, in the clothing shed on the south side of the MCCC parking lot. Please know this mission can always use donations of baby items and diapers in all sizes and large black trash bags. If you have any questions or would like to help with this mission, please contact Nancy Tafel (330-416-0752 or Lynn Kelley (330) 990-8912. These ladies are miracle workers for so many families!

9) **Library News!** Check out this NEW TITLE in the MCCC Fellowship Library: "Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move on, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again", by Lysa Terkeurst. **Thanks to Liz Meeker for this donation!**

\*\*If you would like to help build this library, here are two titles to consider donating:

"The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Scepticism", by Timothy Keller

"Mere Christianity", by C.S. Lewis