

**Glen Echo Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
December 10, 2023**

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Kathleen

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

(Please return to your seats to worship when the lights flash.)

PRELUDE “In the Glory of the Lord” from Handel’s Messiah

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Randy and Bev

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare by living with faith and love.

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.

One: Prepare the path of God.

All: We prepare, we wait, we pray.

One: May God bless us with both patience and passion.

All: We wait and pray to create the path of God.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #148 “O Come All Ye Faithful” vv.1-3**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,

We would embrace thee, with love and awe;

Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? (Refrain)

***INVOCATION**

***GLORY TO GOD #34**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PRAYER HYMN #147 "Away in a Manger"

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

SPECIAL MUSIC "What Child is This?" Sean Lockard, French horn

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Aaron Brunner

SECOND READING

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON "How Do We See God's Joy This Season?" Aaron Brunner

HYMN OF PREPARATION

#425 "Let Us Break Bread Together" vv. 1-2

**Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
(Refrain)**

Invitation to Commune

Kathleen

Communion Sentences

One: In the waiting, God calls. May steadfast love and faithfulness
rest in our souls.

All: **May justice, righteousness, and peace guide our steps
and define our community of faith.**

Prayer of Consecration

(Please partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.)

Communion Music

“Silent Night”

Sean Lockard, French horn

***INVITATION AND HYMN OF DEDICATION**

#153 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vv. 1-2

**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.**

**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.**

(Please be seated for the Postlude.)

POSTLUDE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

BENEDICTION

Aaron Brunner

**Please stand, if you can.*

News in the Pews

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

None this week

Who to Contact: For general concerns or questions, please contact our President, Kathleen. For pastoral concerns, please contact our Elder Chair, Rosemarie. If you would like to speak with the pastor, please contact Aaron.

Shampoo for the Outreach Committee: Outreach is now collecting shampoo for the kids at juvenile detention. If the shampoo contains conditioner, that's fine, but it does need to be shampoo too. They are also looking for ChapStick – 33 of each item is needed.

Winter Clothes for Kids: With the onset of winter, the children at Oak Park Elementary are in need of mittens, gloves and hats.

Good Fellowship – On a Tuesday: December's Good Fellowship dinner will be on Tuesday, December 19th at the Chicago Speakeasy, starting at 5:30 pm. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway.

Candlelight Service: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Sunday night, December 24th at 7:30 p.m. Live baby! All are welcome.

Choir Practice Cancelled: The choir will NOT be meeting on Wednesday, December 20th.

Worship Leaders for 2024: The new sign-up sheet for worship leaders is now up in the hallway.

Meyer Hall Volunteers Needed: Come join us as we visit the kids at Meyer Hall on New Year's Eve. Please sign up on the sheet hanging in the hallway; we need at least six volunteers.

Portions of the worship service were adapted from:

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year. Scifres, Mary and Beu, B.J., Editors. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2022.

EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK

DECEMBER 10-16, 2023

Sunday

Worship
Congregational Meeting

10:15 AM
After church

Today's Serving Schedule

Accompanist:	Judith Henry
Deacon:	Mary
Elder:	Kathleen
Interim Minister:	Aaron Brunner
Videographer:	Teresa
Worship Leader:	Kathleen

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