

**Glen Echo Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
December 17, 2023**

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Rosemarie

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

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

PRELUDE “Sing We Now of Christmas” French Carol, arr. Mark Hayes

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: When the Lord restores our fortunes,

All: We are like those who dream.

One: Our mouths are filled with laughter;

All: Our hearts sing with shouts of joy.

One: Worship the Lord of our salvation.

All: Worship the Lord!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #119 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vv. 1-2**

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

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

**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)**

***INVOCATION**

***GLORY TO GOD #34**

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PRAYER HYMN #143 "Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Remember Jesus"

Julie

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Aaron Brunner

SECOND READING

Matthew 1: 18 – 25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON

"Tis the Season of Joy"

Aaron Brunner

HYMN OF PREPARATION

#387 "Bread of the World, In Mercy Broken"

**Bread of the world in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul in mercy shed,**

**By whom the words of life were spoken,
And in whose death our sins are dead:**

**Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be thy feast to us the token
That by thy grace our souls are fed.**

**Invitation to Commune
Communion Sentences**

Julie

One: God's faithful live as oaks of righteousness.

All: Let us grow strong and true this Advent season.

Prayer of Consecration

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

Communion Music

English Carol, arr. David Lanz

"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentle Ones"

***INVITATION AND HYMN OF DEDICATION**

#155 "Angels We Have Heard On High" vv. 1-2

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]**

(Please be seated for the Postlude.)

POSTLUDE
BENEDICTION

“How Great Our Joy” German Carol, arr. C.E. Walz
Aaron Brunner

**Please stand, if you can.*

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.

News in the Pews

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. You can also call the church (515-274-9124).

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.

Mary's 100th Birthday Party: You are invited to join us for an open house celebrating Mary's 100th birthday. The open house will be held on Wednesday, December 27th from 1 to 4 pm in the church basement. Light refreshments to be served.

Winter Clothes for Kids: 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 this 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.

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.

ABIDE WITH US



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*A Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund
supporting the ministries of our Regional church*



ABIDE WITH US
when we gather to
discover friendship and faith
in summer camps

ABIDE WITH US
when we welcome a new pastor
to our congregation

ABIDE WITH US
when we nurture one who feels called to serve you in ministry

ABIDE WITH US
when we seek to break down barriers of race, gender,
and sexual identity

ABIDE WITH US
when we hold one another accountable and ethical

ABIDE WITH US
when we engage in mission together

ABIDE WITH US
when we gather for assemblies and celebrations

“OH, COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US, OUR LORD EMMANUEL.”

Your Christmas offering equips our Regional church to provide an abiding presence in summer camp settings, congregational life, and leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our shared ministry to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors. With your gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples across our Regional geography and around the world.

*You are invited to make a gift to equip our
Region's presence with your congregation.*



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*2023 Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund
supporting the ministries of our Regional church*



EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK
DECEMBER 17-23, 2023

Sunday	Worship Coffee Fellowship in Lounge	10:15 AM After church
Tuesday	Good Fellowship @ Chicago Speakeasy	5:30 PM
Next Sunday	Worship Candlelight Service	10:15 AM 7:30 PM

Today's Serving Schedule

Accompanist:	Judith Henry
Deacon:	Dorothy
Elder:	Julie
Interim Minister:	Aaron Brunner
Videographer:	Teresa
Worship Leader:	Rosemarie

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