

St. John's United Church of Christ
-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-

December 24, 2025

6:30pm—Pre-Service Music
7:00pm—Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols



GATHERING MUSIC

Lighting of the Candles

"What Child is This" - Organ Solo

"The Coventry Carol" - Piano Solo

Handbells- "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
"Come All Ye Christians"
"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

"Away in a Manger" - Piano Solo

Songbirds- "Bethlehemtown"

"Away in a Manger" (with Piano & Handbell Accompaniment)

Leading Worship: Pastor Margaret, Lynn Grear

P.O. Box 288 – 448 Rice St. Elmore, OH 43416
Pastor—Margaret Mills
Pastor Emeritus—John W. Bock
Ministers—All the Members of St. John's

Church Office Hours
Office Administrator—Erica Baker
Office hours by appointment

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Pastor's Phone: 440-487-2549
Pastor's Email: millsm92445@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsUCCElmore>
<https://facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore>



The Order of Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ

December 24, 2025

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Warner Family

GATHERING WORDS—WELCOME!

**Call to Worship (Luke 2: 10-15, John 8: 12)*

One: Do not be afraid; for see –
I am bringing you good news of great joy.

**All: To us in born this day in the city of
David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

One: This will be a sign for you; you will find a
child wrapped in cloth and lying in a
manger.

**All: Glory to God in the highest and on
earth, peace!**

One: Jesus says to you and to me:
“I am the light of the world.

**All: Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

One: Let us fix our eyes on the true Light as we
gather this night.

**Carol: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #182*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)*

**We gather on this holy night to stand with
shepherds, amazed at your glory: to sing with
angels, rejoicing in your work: to wait with Jo-
seph, trusting in your promise: to sit with
Mary, cradling your love: We have been called
out of bleakness and into your marvelous
light. Stir us as we worship this night to envi-
sion the light of life. May the Good News of
this night inspire us to tell the world of your
great love: for to us is born a Savior, the Mes-
siah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you ! Amen**

**Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem #180 vs. 1 & 2*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee
lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent
stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee
tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of
wondering love. O morning stars, together pro-
claim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all
on earth.

Reader:

On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God's
people to celebrate again what Christ's coming
means to the world. We join with Christians all
over the world who are celebrating tonight.

Reader:

Tonight we light the four Advent candles: the can-
dles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love...
remembering the journey of preparation bringing
us to this night when we light the Christ candle.

Reader:

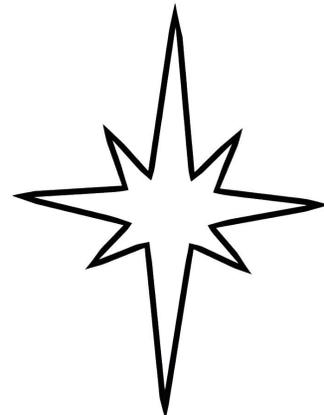
Isaiah 9: 6 For a child has been born for us, a son
given to us; authority rests upon his shoul-
ders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Reader:

Now we light the Christ candle - the birth candle -
as we welcome the light of Christ into our
world. This candle radiates the hope of Jesus
Christ. So as we light the Christ candle, may we
think about what Christ's coming means to each
one of us. May its light warm us and remind us
that Jesus is our light.

Prayer (in unison)

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, you are the hope
for our hurting and broken world. We thank
you, God, for guiding us through this season
of Advent, shining your light in the midst of our
darkness. As your birth lit up the Bethlehem
sky, continue to shine in our world by dispel-
ling darkness, binding up the broken, and call-
ing forth the faithful. On this holiest of nights,
make us willing to welcome you as our
Light! In the name of the One born this night,
Jesus. Amen**



A BABY IS COMING

Anthem "Breath of Heaven" - Songbirds

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 1 - 7

Carol "Away in a Manger" #203

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright 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 side until morning is nigh.



The Shepherds and the Angels Luke 2: 8 - 12

Carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #191

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.



A Great Company of Angels Luke 2: 13 - 14

Carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" #188

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glo-ri-a, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain: Glo-ri-a, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-ri-a, in excelsis Deo!



The Shepherds

Luke 2: 15 - 18

Carol "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" #218

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light,
Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.
Refrain



The Visit of the Magi Matthew 2: 1 - 11

Carol "We Three Kings" #233

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Refrain



Message

And Said "Yes?!"

Evening Prayer

Sharing the Light (please remain seated)

Carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" (see insert)

CLOSING WORDS

*Carol "Joy to the World" #176

*Postlude "Angels Gloria" - Althouse

**Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary this evening. You may take home your poinsettias after the service. Each one is labeled with your name. Plastic bags are available.

St. John's Staff Wishes You and Yours a Blessed Christmas Season!

Pastor Margaret, Erica, Jim and Dawn, Lynn, Ron

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In Memory Of:

Loved Ones—Lee Sankiewicz
Gary & Linda Whiting—Marge Whiting
Judy L Myers-Kuhlman—Richard Kuhlman
Howard & Margaret Kuhlman—Richard Kuhlman
Edward & Irma Kuhlman—Richard Kuhlman
Roy & Amanda Japsen—Richard Kuhlman
Our Loved Ones—Barbara & Richard Bruntz
Loved Ones—John & Carol Bock

Ric Neeb—Kendra, Brad, & Cassidy Buchanan
Tim Buchanan—Kendra, Brad, & Cassidy Buchanan
Loved Ones—Joyce Bruntz
Jill Snyder—Family (Busdekers)
Donald & Carolyn Sampson—Family (Busdekers)
John & Margaret Reiners—Pastor Margaret
Grace & Duncan Trueman—Pastor Margaret
David W Reiners—Pastor Margaret
Loved Ones—Judy Suto & Family
David Suto—Judy Suto & Family
Alton & Edna Giesler—Bill & Barb Schwartz
Loved Ones—Bill & Barb Schwartz
Marilyn Alvarez—Bill Verbryke
Bob & Harriet Verbryke—Their Children (Bill V)
Dave Verbryke—Brothers & Sisters (Bill V)
All Our Loved Ones—Dawn & Jim Wilburn

In Honor Of:

Jim & Nola Owen—Kendra, Brad, & Cassidy Buchanan
Loved Ones—John & Carol Bock
Robert & Elizabeth Reiners—Pastor Margaret
Zak, Jessica, & Milena Mills—Pastor Margaret
Chris, Lindsey, Lily, & Zak Robison—Pastor Margaret
All of Our Loved Ones Still With Us—Dawn & Jim Wilburn

Grateful For:

Lynn Gear—Pastor Margaret
Jim & Dawn Wilburn—Pastor Margaret
Ron Busdeker—Pastor Margaret
Erica Baker—Pastor Margaret

