

Welcome to

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

12120 Bridgeton Square Drive, Bridgeton, MO, 63044 | (314) 739-3066 | JCPChurch.org



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Welcome- we are so glad you are here!

Sunday, December 18th, 2022 | Fourth Sunday in Advent- Year A

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25

✠ *Indicates to rise in body or in spirit*

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE

Aaron Wolz, Viola Solo

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY SHARING

Lisa Schoonover

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Look! The young woman is with child;
she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.
The mystery of the ages is now revealed.
To God be the glory forever!
A ruler will come from Bethlehem,
and he will be the shepherd of peace.

OPENING SONG

Praise Team

“Hear Our Praises”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist

Who are we, Lord God,
that you should come to us?
Yet you have visited your people
and redeemed us in your Son.
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

**She shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel: “God is with us”.**

✠ CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean;
but there is mercy for those
who call on the name of the Lord.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

✠ UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.**

✠ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Lisa Schoonover

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low:
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. (*con't*)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

✠ **RESPONSE**

“Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father)”

✠ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Lisa Schoonover

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

“STORY OF CHRISTMAS” | CHOIR CANTATA

JCPC Adult Choir

The story of Christmas begins with silence. It lasted 400 years in fact. The children of Israel waited to hear from their God. They prayed, offered sacrifices, and kept the festivals and holy days. Still there was only silence. God had promised they would not be forgotten. A Son would be given. A Savior would come. The silence would be broken, and God would speak.

HYMN | #124: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

And so it was that an angel delivered the message to Mary – “Don’t be afraid. You have found favor with God. You will give birth to a Son. Call him Jesus.” And so, Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, became pregnant. Imagine Joseph’s reaction. He loved Mary, but at the same time, he knew he was not the father of this child. How could she betray him? This was not like her at all. And while he was pondering just what to do, an angel appeared to him in a dream. “Don’t be afraid. Mary will have a Son. Call Him Jesus. He will save His people from their sins.”

And so Mary carried this child, putting up with gossip and rumors. And then came Caesar’s decree that everyone had to go to the place of their birth and register. They had to travel to Bethlehem when she was just about to give birth.

And give birth she did, in a small stable, because there was no more room anywhere else.

HYMN | #141: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Shepherds in the hills were doing their normal thing – watching over their sheep. And as we all know, a heavenly messenger appeared, saying, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. You will find him in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Follow the star.” And at that point, the sky lit up and a host of angels shouted out: Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth peace and goodwill to all.

HYMN | #133: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

And so the shepherds followed the star that shone above the manger where the Christ child lay. And they found him just as the angel had said, in that feeding trough. They

went into the stable and fell to their knees and worshipped Him. Luk2 2 tells us that when the shepherds had seen Jesus, they glorified and praised God. They spread the word, and all who heard it were amazed. Salvation had come and now heaven wasn't just a place far away.

HYMN | #147: “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

HYMN | #148: “O Holy Night”

Over 2000 years later, we are still invited to the manger in Bethlehem to find Him, one way or another, and to know and remember who and what He really is – wonderful counselor, prince of peace, almighty God Himself, who came to us then and is with us still now. It's our job to spread the good news to all who will listen. We have a Savior who has come to redeem us if we just surrender to his grace.

HYMN | #138: “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Proclaiming God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Liturgist

Isaiah 7:10-16 (NIV)

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Responding to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lisa Schoonover

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION FOR THE OFFERING

Liturgist

All things in heaven and earth belong to God,
Who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

We must not take the gifts God gives to us, even the most tangible ones, and hoard them for ourselves. Rather, we offer them, as well as our hearts and lives as offerings to those in true need around us. This we pray in the name of Bethlehem's Babe. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Sending

✠ CLOSING HYMN

#145: “O, Come All Ye Faithful”

✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Lisa Schoonover

May the God of peace
and the power of the Spirit sustain you
so that you may abound in hope
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

✠ *Indicates to rise in body or in spirit*

Liturgy from *Book of Common Worship* | Westminster John Knox Press © 2018

Dedication for the Offering by Thom M. Shuman © 2022

JCPC Prayer List

JCPC Family

Cindy Lay
Kathy Doty
Elva Holder
Rev. Dr. John R. Shear
Kinquist Family

Allison Van Buren
Koda Hook
Mary Smith
Bob Messersmith

Members in a Care Facility

Arlene Walters

Friends of Our JCPC Family

Junia Thompson and Family- Missionaries in
Indonesia
Randy Gross- C. Lay brother
Denise Kinquist- S. Kinquist sister
Friend of Heather Wolz
Carole Greer- Barclay's neice
Lois Smith- Myers neighbor
Mark Kesner, K. Doty's cousin
Melanie Williams-Harvey, R. Kinquist sister
Charles Barnes, S. Tyler's son-in-law

Amelia Sanchez, S. Tyler's great granddaughter
Kelly Koch, H. Wolz' uncle
Marie Gross, C. Lay's stepmother
Lola- H. Wolz niece
Helen Mustell- S. Tyler sister
Stephanie Rothe- K. Van Buren friend
Mark Krogmeier- Jennifer Hardy's father
Bea Alkers, Lisa Schoonover's friend
Norman Kellar- Marge Kellar's brother

For prayer requests and updates,

please contact Marion Elliot at (314) 739-5372

or email office@jpcchurch.org



Community
Helping

Current Needs

Ministry

Jelly
Peanut Butter
Canned Veggies
Rice and rice mixes
Tuna/Hamburger Helper/Dinner
Mixes
Pasta Sauces

Christmas Eve

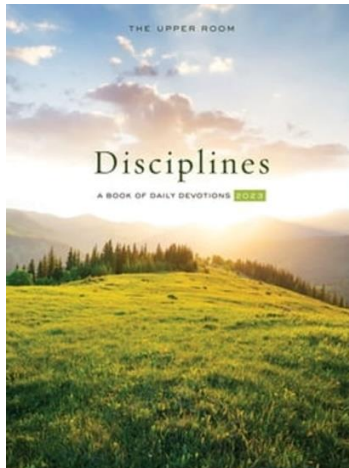
Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24th | 11:00 PM

Join us on Christmas Eve for our annual Candlelight Service: an evening of fellowship, carols, lessons, and candle lighting as we await the arrival of the promised Messiah.

All are welcome to join us!

Candlelight Service



Living the Lectionary

Wednesday nights | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join us for an engaging Bible study that will focus on the weekly lectionary texts in conjunction with the Upper Room

Disciplines 2023 Devotional

We hope you will join us for this weekly Bible study beginning Wednesday, January 11th. All are welcome!

Funds Now Available for Missouri Family Care Safety Registry

Any member who wishes to volunteer to work with children at Room at the Inn is required to be registered in the Missouri Family Care Safety Registry. There is a registration charge of \$14, and funds are now available to cover this cost for our members! If you are interested in volunteering at Room at the Inn, please contact the church office for additional directions on getting registered.



INTERESTED IN DONATING FLOWERS IN 2023?

Visit JPCChurch.org/flowers or contact the church office if you are interested in signing up to donate flowers for Sunday morning worship or other special events.

LITURGISTS NEEDED FOR 2023!

We need volunteers willing to be liturgists for Sunday morning worship in 2023! If you are interested, please sign up using the link in the weekly update email, or visit JPCChurch.org/signup



Please submit announcements by Tuesday at 5:30 PM to jpcovd@gmail.com

CHURCH CALENDAR and BIRTHDAYS

December 2022

December 18th – December 25th

Sunday, December 18th

9:00 AM- Movie Discussion Group

10:30 AM- Worship

2:00 PM- M&A Piano Recital (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 19th

7:00 PM- Boy Scouts Troop 766

Tuesday, December 20th

Wednesday, December 21st

Thursday, December 22nd

Friday, December 23rd

Saturday, December 24th

11:00 PM- Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Day | No Worship Service

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

December Birthdays:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Wayne Myers | 12/06 |
| Allison Van Buren | 12/06 |
| Randy Clark | 12/14 |
| Jennifer Hardy | 12/17 |
| Lonnie Schoonover | 12/19 |
| Lisa Schoonover | 12/19 |
| Lisa Moore | 12/23 |
| Herm Heberer | 12/27 |
| Elva Holder | 12/30 |

Welcome to John Calvin Presbyterian Church

We are so glad you are here!

- Please feel free to stop by our welcome area and get a nametag if you do not already have one.
- Our worship and communion services are open to all. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your time with us more welcoming and comfortable.
- Please see any of our greeters or ushers if you have any accessibility needs/requests.
- **Restrooms** are located across the hall from the sanctuary entrance as well as in the fellowship area. Please see an usher if you need directions.
- Please feel free to join us for fellowship time following worship!

For more information on John Calvin Presbyterian Church, please visit JCPChurch.org!

Do you have a passion to serve?

We are always in need of members and volunteers to help serve in various ways at John Calvin Presbyterian Church! If you feel called to serve, please contact the church office, or see any of the worship stewards, and we will be happy to connect you with the appropriate team!

**“There is one body, but many parts. But all parts make up one body.
So it is with Christ.”**

-1 Corinthians 12:12-

Thank you for your consideration!