

*Welcome to*

# John Calvin Presbyterian Church



*Proclaiming Christ as a church of prayer, outreach,  
Bible study, discipling, and worship*

Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 AM

12120 Bridgeton Square Dr.  
Bridgeton, MO, 63044  
(314) 739-3066



*The Presbytery of  
Giddings Lovejoy*



**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | Fourth Sunday in Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 | Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38

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*Gathering for God's Word*

**WELCOME AND COMMUNITY SHARING**

Matthew Miller

**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 glory forever.**  
A ruler will come from Bethlehem  
**and he will be the shepherd of peace.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

The Lord shall give you a sign.  
Look, the young woman is with child.  
**She shall bear a son**  
**and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."**

**OPENING HYMN**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (insert)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Liturgist

God of grace,  
your eternal Word took flesh among us  
when Mary placed her life  
at the service of your will.

Prepare our hearts for his coming again;  
keep us steadfast in hope  
and faithful in service,  
that we may receive the coming of his kingdom  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **HYMN**

#128: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Liturgist

The grace of God overflows for us  
through Christ Jesus  
who came into the world to save sinners.

Trusting in God's faithful grace,  
and knowing God wants to forgive us  
when we confess our wrongdoings,  
let us confess our sin.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you  
with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be,  
that we may delight in your will**

**and walk in your ways  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Matthew Miller

The mercy of the Lord  
is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE**

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” (insert)

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Matthew Miller

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.**

**ANTHEM**

“Manger Medley”

JCPC Adult Choir

***Proclaiming God’s Word***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Liturgist

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy  
what you say to us today. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Liturgist

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (NIV)

- <sup>1</sup> I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known  
through all generations.
- <sup>2</sup> I will declare that your love stands firm forever,  
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- <sup>3</sup> You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant,
- <sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your line forever  
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"
- <sup>19</sup> Once you spoke in a vision,  
to your faithful people you said:  
"I have bestowed strength on a warrior;  
I have raised up a young man from among the people.
- <sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant;  
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
- <sup>21</sup> My hand will sustain him;  
surely my arm will strengthen him.
- <sup>22</sup> The enemy will not get the better of him;  
the wicked will not oppress him.
- <sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down his adversaries.
- <sup>24</sup> My faithful love will be with him,  
and through my name his horn will be exalted.
- <sup>25</sup> I will set his hand over the sea,  
his right hand over the rivers.
- <sup>26</sup> He will call out to me, 'You are my Father,  
my God, the Rock my Savior.'

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew Miller

2 Samuel 7:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

<sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

<sup>8</sup> “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders<sup>[a]</sup> over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you.”

**SERMON**

Matthew Miller

### *Responding to God’s Word*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Matthew Miller

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Liturgist

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it,  
**the world, and those who live in it.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offerings can be made near the sanctuary entrance prior to worship or at the communion table following worship.*

## **DOXOLOGY**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist

Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord  
**and of your own we give you.**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
Through your goodness  
you have blessed us with these gifts  
our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,  
in feeding the world with your love;  
through the one who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Holy Communion***

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

Matthew Miller

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Matthew Miller

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory, forever  
Amen.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Matthew Miller

**COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Matthew Miller

*Sending*

**CLOSING HYMN**

#244: "The Trees of the Field"

**CHARGE**

Matthew Miller

Go into the world,  
proclaiming the light that has come:  
the light which shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not, nor will ever, overcome it.  
Go in courage, love, and peace.

**BLESSING**

Matthew Miller

And may the Lord bless you and keep you  
may she make her face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you  
May he lift up his countenance upon you,  
and may God grant you peace. **Amen.**



**Some elements of the liturgy come from:**  
*Book of Common Worship* | Westminster John Knox Press © 2018

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# JCPC Prayer List

## JCPC Family

**Cindy Lay**  
**Kathy Doty**  
**Elva Holder**  
**Mary Smith**

**Kinquist Family**  
**Heather Wolz**  
**Carol Mallette**  
**Sandra Barclay**

**Randy Clark**  
**Kelley Maerz**  
**Kara Myers**

## Members in a Care Facility

**Arlene Walters**

## Friends of Our JCPC Family

**Junia Thompson and Family**- Missionaries in Indonesia  
**Denise Kinquist**- S. Kinquist sister  
**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  
**Rob Hanson**- Barb Hanson's son  
**Chad Grellner**- friend of Ken and Mary Myers  
**Rick Kraft**- Mark Miller friend  
**Jerry Hahn**- V. Messersmith brother -in-law  
**Steve**- Van Buren friend  
**Debbie Richie-Raymer**- Cindy Lay friend

**Aaron and spouse**- friends of Kelley and Bryan Maerz  
**Rosalie Calvin**- D. Calvin's mother  
**Rev. Melissa Kathryn Leo**  
**Melissa**- Friend of H. Wolz  
**McGee Family**- Messersmith neighbors  
**Chris Hanson**- Barb Hanson son  
**Sarah Dilallo**- Kara Myers ' friend  
Those dealing with mental health issues  
**Prokhodov Family**  
**Charlie Mills**  
**Shelly Hynes**- Amy Brixey friend  
**Jessica White's family**  
**Tonya Collen**- J. Farley sister in-law  
**Mark**- Jackie Farley cousin  
**Sue**- Van Buren friend  
**Michelle**- friend of JCPC  
**Jack and Tony**- C. Lay nephew

## Joys and Thanksgiving

## Upcoming Events



## Faith Formation

### Women's Movie Discussion Group

*Sunday Mornings | 9 AM*

Join our Sunday morning women's movie discussion group as they watch and discuss the films and the various ways they connect to our faith and theology. Join us at 9 AM for a time of fellowship before we begin viewing.

## Mission

### Community Helping Ministry



#### CHM NEEDS:

*Financial Contributions  
Canned Meat  
Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
Jelly*

*Financial contributions can be made via CHM mailbox in church office and food contributions can be made in the **welcome area.***

#### **Are you or your family in need of food or any other kind of assistance?**

Please contact Liza Browning at (314) 770-2216 or email [communityhelpingministry@yahoo.com](mailto:communityhelpingministry@yahoo.com).

### Worship at Life Care Center

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping lead worship at the Bridgeton Life Care center. Services are held each month as a ministry to those who call the Life Care Center home. We are looking for a variety of help, please reach out to Amy Brixey ([bisskut27@gmail.com](mailto:bisskut27@gmail.com)) for more information.



## **Ukrainian Refugee Support** *2023-2024 Mission Campaign*

**Supporting the Prokhodov Family in  
their move from war-torn Ukraine  
to St. Louis, MO.**

For more information on our 2023-2024  
Mission campaign, visit  
**JCPChurch.org/mission.**

To donate to this cause via PayPal, use the  
QR code below!



**Please submit announcements and  
information for weekly bulletin and website to  
Matt Miller ([office@jcpchurch.org](mailto:office@jcpchurch.org)) no later  
than by the Tuesday of the desired week.**

## Get Involved this week!

### Sunday

10:30 AM | Worship

*The church office will be closed from 12/23-12/26 and from 12/30-1/2/2024.*

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a happy and blessed New Year.*

*God Bless!*

## January Birthdays

### NAME

### DATE

John Webb	1/03
Robert Messersmith	1/06
Peggy Dill	1/07
Michael Okoe-Mensah	1/07
Todd Van Buren	1/10
Mary Smith	1/13
Jackie Farley	1/16
Lorrie McKelvey	1/16
Jack Barnum	1/22
Brielle Hardy	1/22
Kyle Baker	1/28
Gil Elliott	1/30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	2	3 11:00 am ROMEOS	4 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 pm Property Committee Meeting	5	6
7 9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	8 7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	9	10 11:00 am ROMEOS	11 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	12	13
14 9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	15 7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	16	17 11:00 am ROMEOS	18 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	19	20
21 9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	22 7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	23	24 11:00 am ROMEOS	25 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	26	27
28 9:00 am Movie Discussion Group 10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship	29 7:00 pm Boy Scouts of America   Troop 766	30	31 11:00 am ROMEOS			

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.



# 582

## Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
 2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)  
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

# 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](http://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!