



**First Congregational
Church of
Tallmadge**

United Church of Christ

**Third Sunday
of Advent
Worship Service**

*December 13, 2020
10:00 AM*

PRELUDE

“Joy to the World” —Handel-Burkhardt

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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WELCOME & GREETING

Pastor David

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE — JOY

Ella, Emma, and AJ Bozic

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF JOY

Liturgist and Congregation

Liturgist: Let us pray for Joy...

Everyone: O Lord, we come to worship with open hearts and minds, ready to receive the fullness of your joy. Make our hearts joyful in giving and receiving, in listening and in proclaiming, and in doing and being. May your Spirit of truth guide us down paths of joyful abandon --- in sharing the reality of your incarnational blessings in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF JOY

“Joy to the World”

VERSE 1

Joy to the world! the savior Reigns; let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; repeat their sounding joy,
repeat their sounding joy, repeat, repeat, their sounding joy.

VERSE 2

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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH TIME

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“The Gift of Joy” —Wendy Brown

YOUTH SONG

“Angels We Have Heard on High” —Lindsay Sterling

CELEBRATING IN WORD AND PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Liturgist

Gospel Lesson: John 1:19-29

The word of God for the people of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight^[c] the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Behold, the Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"My Heart, Your Bethlehem" — Schram, Gaines, & Redner

Solo: Erin Hoffman

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MESSAGE

"John's Prelude" - Pastor David

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Who Is This Child?" — Harlan/Fettke

Solo: Carol Penn

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PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor David

THE LORD'S PRAYER

using "debts" and "debtors"

PREPARING TO GO INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"

VERSE 1

Good Christian friends, re-joyce with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this;
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

VERSE 2

Good Christian friends, re-joyce with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***OFFERING BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

Pastor David

***CONGREGATION RESPONSE**

(sung or said)

*“Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.”*

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Regent Square”— Smart-Smith

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHANGES IN WORSHIP

Executive Council of First Congregational Church has unanimously voted to cease meeting for "in person" worship services through at least January 17, 2021. This Sunday, December 13, we will offer Parking Lot and Online Worship only.

We are busy planning for the weeks ahead, including Christmas Eve. Keep an eye out on for upcoming announcements via email, Facebook, the Herald, and our website.

THANK YOU

Thanks to our worship servants today—worship participants, parking lot helpers, staff, advertising, worship leaders, trustees, and production crew. Thanks to our technical team: Anne Per-tick, Tim Burns, Diana Fiocca, and Vince Scovern. We thank the following participants in this morning’s Advent Candle Lighting Service: Ella, Emma, and AJ Bozic

SPECIAL MUSIC

We thank those who provided our special music this morning: Erin Hoffman and Carol Penn

SCRIPS CARDS

Even though FCC is no longer open for in person worship, you can still order your Scrip gift cards. Please call, text, or email Dianne @ 330-780-7459, dgalloway44221@yahoo.com. Final day to order in December is Dec 21.

DARE TO SHARE

Today is the deadline to donate items for Tallmadge's own "Dare to Share" program. Dare to Share provides food for our own Tallmadge students on the weekends, school holidays and summer breaks. The national pandemic definitely put an undue strain on our families when they were not in school. Items requested include:

-Shelf stable milk	-Kid friendly cans or micro-wave bowls of soup/pasta/Dinty Moore	-popcorn packs
-Dinty Moore Stew		-Gift cards to Aldi's, BJ's or Sam's, and Marc's
-Tuna	-individual peanut butter packs,	-\$10 per person or \$80 per family to provide holiday dinners to families (Checks made payable to Dare to Share)
-Soup	-granola bars	
-Individual Mac n Cheese	-cracker packs	
-Individual applesauce	-pretzel packs	

Please contact Sarah Ickes 330-730-8205, rn8ickes@sbcglobal.net with any questions. ALL items need turned in today, for delivery before the school Christmas break. Our Advent class is decorating large brown paper bags to collect the items in if others want to do the same!

ACME COMMUNITY CASH BACK

Please bring in your Acme tapes by December 26th. Thank you!!



The **Christmas Offering** for this year will be donated to two organizations that are near and dear to **First Congregational Church of Tallmadge**. The **Social Action and Missions Board** has decided to divide the funds between **Family Promise** and **Faithful Servants Care Center**. **Family Promise** helps provide lodging for homeless families with children, allowing them to stay together and helping them to achieve sustainable independence. **Faithful Servants Care Center** provides free urgent health care services with a Christ-like compassion for those without insurance and the economic means to access traditional medical care. If you are able, please consider making a **Christmas Offering** to help those in need during these unprecedented times. Thank you!

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

Our Prayer Chain has grown to 11 members dedicated to service through praying. We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer.

Psalm 66:20

Noreen Ashley

Jim Mayfield

Tim Ashley

Hannah McConihe

Biff Baker

Katie Moore

Janette Beckwith

David & Jackie Parker

Marilyn Berta
(Coletta Spoler's daughter)

The Petraitis Family (connected with Treehouse)

Bea Clarke

Ed Powell

Betty Gulledge

(Sharon Letzler's brother)

Marianne Hannum

Barbara Sherrick

Bev Haught

(Jim Harris's sister)

James Hedden
(friend of Bonnie Fordham)

C.J. Smith

Jan Hetzel

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

Donnie Joyner

Confidential Names on our Prayer Lists

Zell Lambert

Maya Marquette (friend of the Ross Family)

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

FCC Members are encouraged to come into the atrium and pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes. You may come in while you are here for Parking Lot Worship or during our church office hours, Tues-Thurs, between 10am and 2pm. Please remember to maintain FCC protocol of masks, sanitizing, and social distancing upon entry. Thank you!

