

St. John's

United Church of Christ

December 22, 2024

Prelude "In the Bleak Midwinter" By: Rosetti/Holst
Arranged by S.A. Boltz

Welcome and Announcements

"All who seek Him are welcome in Our Father's House"

+Gathering Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful"
By John Francis Wade Blue Hymnal page # 249 verses 1 & 3

+Invocation

+Call to Worship

Pastor: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy

All: Belief and Love are the theme

Pastor: Today, we will hear the story of surprising commitment

All: We will learn of Mary and God's wonderful love

Pastor: Today, we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do

All: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. Amen.

+Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord, we are so excited. Christmas is almost here. We want to jump ahead to the exciting and wondrous worship service that we will hold this evening. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind us that your love is blossoming in our lives. As we hear Mary say "Yes!" to God's good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen

+Kyrie Responsively Red Hymnal page 5

+Words of Assurance

Pastor: Hear the Good News!.....Your sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

Children's Time

Scripture:

New Testament: Hebrews 10:5-10

Page 1049 in your pew Bible

+Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Page 888 in your pew Bible

+Gloria Patri Red Hymnal page 493

+ The Statement of Faith Red Hymnal-front cover
Please be seated

Sermon

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer Red Hymnal page 37

+Call to Offering

+Doxology Red Hymnal Page 551

+Prayer of Thanksgiving

+Sending Hymn

Trad English Melody

Blue Hymnal

"What Child Is This"
page # 281 verses 1, 2 & 3

+Benediction and Amen

Postlude

By Sears/Willis

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Arranged by S.A. Boltz

Thank you for joining us!

Last Week's Offering: \$1,483.00

Attendance: 42 (members - 28 children - 6 non-members - 8)

Announcements

- We're excited to announce that our Christmas Eve service will be a special joint celebration with The Heart of Christ Church! Pastor Richard Dubbs and Pastor Dave Webster will be joining Pastor Coleman to share a meaningful message with us. Join us for our candlelight service at 7:00 PM.
- Our offering collected on Christmas Eve will be donated to The Northern Lebanon Clothing Closet
- **Cookies Social** immediately following our Christmas Eve service. If you are willing/ able please bring some cookies to share with all.
- **Altar Flowers and Bulletin:** Sponsored by the Hollowell-Bachman Family in heartfelt memory and honor of Robert Hollowell, Sr.—a beloved husband and father.
- **February 2nd:** Final Annual Congregational Meeting. Your presence is highly valued, as we will be discussing important matters regarding the final path of our church. We encourage you to mark your calendar and make plans to join us for this significant discussion
- If you require pastoral care, please contact Pastor Morris Coleman. (717) 813-7407