



Celebrating 150 Years 1868 - 2018

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December 2, 2018

ADVENT

While we were still recovering from Thanksgiving, the season of Advent “snuck up” on us. But Advent, the season of waiting, preparation, and expectation can get easily lost in the rush to Bethlehem (or Santa). For the church and the liturgical calendar, Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word literally means the arrival of something (or someone in our case) notable. We think of it as preparation for the celebration of the arrival of “baby Jesus” at Christmas, but you might say the season “begins at the end” with a reminder that we are waiting for the return of Jesus. Many have used this expectation of his promised return as a threat calling for repentance from sin and preparation for divine judgement. Others offer it as hope for a world that is lost and broken and a coming day of redemption and restoration. The reality of our lives is that we live in a perpetual season of Advent, one day at a time, not knowing what tomorrow holds for us. But, for people of faith, our hope is in the gospel message that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not by our works. Because of this we can pray during Advent John’s simple prayer at the end of Revelation, “Come Lord Jesus.”

I want to say a special thanks to the Susanna Wesley Circle for our **Advent Devotional Book** and all who wrote the devotionals. **The book is available in the sanctuary this morning**, and will be a great way to celebrate Advent and keep our attention on Jesus.

During the season of Advent, I’ll be preaching a series entitled: “What If Jesus Never Came.” For more information regarding the series and our Christmas Eve Service times, please see the insert in today’s bulletin.



Where There Is No Vision the People Perish Proverbs 29:11

The writer of Proverbs tells us that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:11) The vision in play is not some wild imagination of our own dreams and desires, but it is, instead, a picture of what it is like to follow our God. Advent provides us with a dedicated opportunity to focus our own visioning on those things that are essential to our living of the Faith we have in Jesus Christ. As we prepare for His coming again, we will focus on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

A special thank you is extended to Sara Livingood whose calligraphy helps us envision our weekly themes as we light the candles of the Advent Wreath.

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 — 8:45 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

First Sunday of Advent

Gathering and Announcements

Ben Martin

Welcome to worship this morning. Thank you for joining us. If needed, the nursery for infants to 3 years old is located on the first floor. Hearing assistance devices, several seat cushions, large print bulletins, and large print hymnals are available in the narthex, and an usher will be happy to help you with them. Please fill out the attendance registration pad found in the pew, and remember to silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography during the service. We pray this hour will be a meaningful and grace-filled encounter with God through music, word, and fellowship.

Chiming of the Hour (11:00)

Christopher Butler

Lighting of the Candles

The Acolytes

Introit (11:00)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Lighting of the Hope Candle

TBD (8:45)

Mark, Adeline, Harris, and Charlie Glidewell (11:00)

Congregational Response

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

* **Hymn** No. 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL
(Stanzas 1-4, 7)

* **Affirmation of Faith** No. 881 The Apostles' Creed
James P. Owens

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

* **Gloria Patri** No. 71 GREATOR EX
(Dismissal for Children's Worship)

8:45 Children ages 3 - 2nd Grade line up at the door on the right side of the sanctuary to go to Children's Worship, held in Room 103.

11:00 Children ages 3 - PreK leave through the door on the right side of the sanctuary to go to Preschool Children's Worship in Room 201. Children in grades K - 3rd leave through the door on the left side of the sanctuary to go to Elementary Children's Worship in Room 303.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Morning Prayer

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

* **Scripture Lesson** (Pew Bible, pgs. 91-92) John 1:1-18

Sermon "What If Jesus Never Came Part 1: An Invisible God"
Ben Martin

Holy Communion

Invitation and Confession

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in
peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our
sin before God and one another.

All: Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Pastor: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
That proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Nelle Bordeaux

Offertory Solo (8:45) A Cradle Carol arr. Dan Forrest
Tim Forte, baritone

Offertory Anthem (11:00) Gloria In Excelsis Deo Vivaldi Gloria
Latin: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
English: Glory to God in the highest.

Offering

During the 11:00 a.m. service, please remove the attendance sheets from the book and give to the acolytes as a symbolic offering of our presence in worship.

* **Hymn of Response** DIX

As they offered gifts most rare;
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we, with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ! to Thee our heavenly King.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

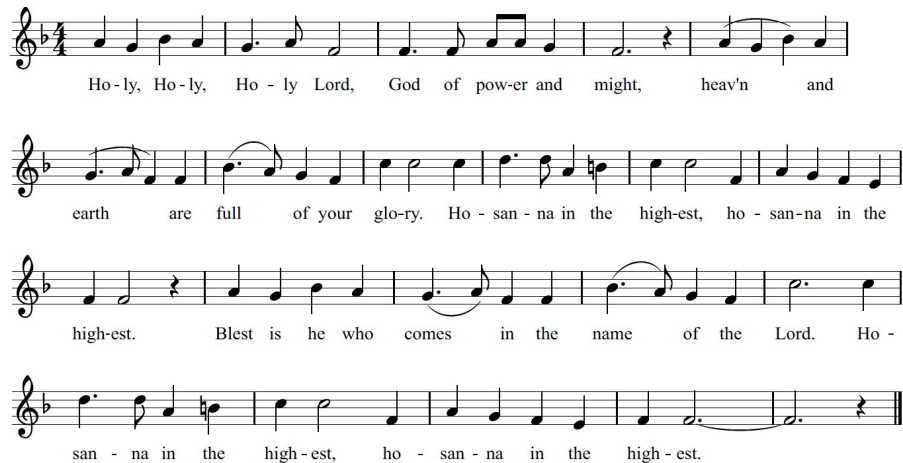
Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to our Lord and God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth...

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



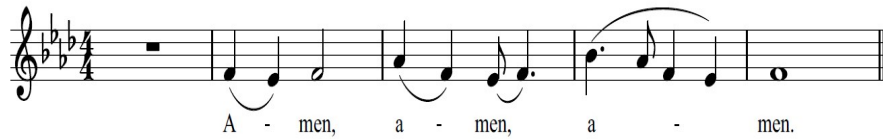
Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, That we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.



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 trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory; For ever.
Amen.

Breaking the Bread

(Gluten free bread is available. Please indicate your preference by raising your hand.)

Giving the Bread and Cup

Today's communion offering is for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to give a donation, please leave your offering in the chancel rail when you come to be served.

Music During Communion

(8:45)

Sonata, Op. 79, No. 25

Beethoven

Angelina Stack, pianist

(11:00)

Sing We Now of Christmas

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Rodney Powers, pianist

A Cradle Carol

arr. Forrest

Tim Forte, baritone

Valse, Op. 64, No. 2

Chopin

We Three Kings

I Wonder as I Wander

Rodney Powers, pianist

Prayer After Receiving

All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* **Hymn No. 196** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL
(Stanza One)

Closing Response (11:00) Born Thy People to Deliver HYFRYDOL

Closing Voluntary Fanfare Francis Jackson

* Please stand as you are able.

Immediately following each Service a docent is available by the grand piano to share with you a brief history of this Sanctuary and congregation.

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Children's Church/Worship Participation in Communion

Today, and each first Sunday, the children in Children's Church/Worship will take communion together in the sanctuary.

Altar Flowers

The flowers by the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son, David H. Butler, Jr., by David H. and Linda Butler.

Thank You

To all 42 volunteers who served our Family Promise guests at Wesley Gardens this week. You cared for three homeless mothers and ten homeless children.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has turned in your estimate of giving cards for 2019. So far we have received 146 cards totaling \$915,164 in estimated giving for 2019. That compares to 175 cards totaling \$1,048,294 in commitments for 2018. You can return the card to the office in person or by mail, or fill it out online on our website.

Christmas Ornament Painting

Today, Sunday, December 2, in rooms 202 and 303 immediately following the 11:00 service. These ornaments can be hand-painted by your child and then they are glazed and fired by professionals. \$11 each. No need to make a reservation, we'll have all the supplies ready for you, and the ornaments will be ready for pick up on December 16.

Lessons & Carols

Next Sunday morning our 11:00 worship experience will be the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The Service celebrates the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and choral music. Children and adults will read Scriptures from the King James Version of the Bible and sing carols accompanied by the pipe organ and a small orchestral ensemble. The congregation will join in enthusiastic singing of beloved carols.

Christmas Celebration Programs

The Elementary children will present the Nativity Pageant on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:15 p.m., and the Joyful Noise choir will present their Christmas Celebration program on Sunday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m. Both will take place in the sanctuary and everyone is welcome!

In Need of Angels

Our Epiphany Art Display in the Parlor of Oliver Hall will be December 30 and January 6. If you have an angel to display, please see Carolyn Hale Cubbedge.

Finances: (11-25-18)

Total Budget for the Year	\$1,868,620.10
Actual Revenues Year-to-Date	\$1,547,358.17
Actual Expenses Year-to-Date.....	\$1,633,700.69
Construction Loan Balance	\$491,066.53

Assisting in Worship Today - 8:45 Service:

Partners in Prayer: Carmine Cowart	Docent: Lori Miller
Offering Steward: Jeff Miller	Children's Church: Holley McCormick
Greeters: Lori Miller, Judy Cleveland	
Ushers: Paul Cleveland, Britt Griffin	
Communion Stewards: Nancy & Woody Brown, Florence & Frank Anderson	
Acolytes: Sara Jean Yost, Savannah Yost	

11:00 Service:

Partners in Prayer: Mickey Rountree	Docent: Karen Nickles
Acolytes: Julianne Jones, Peter Thompson	
Greeters: Kim & Mehmet Ergul, David & Dorie Gaskin	
Offering Steward: Randal Robinson	
Ushers: Brian West, John Beasley, Bill Bland, Charles Holley, Corey Jones, Art McGowen, Willie Roberds, Kenneth Spriggs	
Communion Stewards: Nancy & Woody Brown, Florence & Frank Anderson	
Nursery: Infant: Leslie Washburn	Toddler: Christina Maher
Children's Worship 3's & PreK: Jen Marler, Lindsay Thomas	
Children's Worship K-4th: TBD, Jo Anne Garcia-Melendez	

Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church

December 2, 2018

The Sermon Extended:

Monday	John 1	What did Jesus reveal to us about God?
Tuesday	Genesis 1	What does the creation reveal about God?
Wednesday	Exodus 20:1-21	What does the law reveal about God?
Thursday	John 14:1-11	How did Jesus change our perception of God?
Friday	Colossians 1:11-20	What does Paul say Jesus revealed about God?



During the season of Advent, I'll be preaching a series entitled: "What If Jesus Never Came."

Dec. 2	What if Jesus Never Came Part 1- An Invisible God- John 1
Dec. 9	11:00 Service- Festival of Lessons and Carols (James P. Owens will preach during the 8:45 service.)
Dec. 16	What if Jesus Never Came Part 2- A Unfulfilled Life- John 10:7-10, I Timothy 6:17-19
Dec. 23	What if Jesus Never Came Part 3- A Churchless World- Matthew 16:13-19, Colossians 1:18
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services (10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.)- What if Jesus Never Came Part 4- A Death Sentence- Matthew 1:18-25, Romans 6:23

Sermon Notes

150th Anniversary Historical Fact:

In order to install the new Noack organ, the choir loft had to be enlarged and the chancel area was moved forward 6 feet. Several rows of pews were removed, and master craftsmen retained the appearance of the chancel area.

As a Praying Church...

We focus our attention on the need for hope in our world. May God grant us a vision the Hope made known in Jesus Christ.

This Week at Wesley

Sunday, December 2

- 8:45 A.M. Worship Service, SNC
- 9:30 A.M. Coffee & Donuts, FH
- 9:45 A.M. Sunday School
- 11:00 A.M. Worship Service, SNC
- 4:00 P.M. Youth Choir, 4th Flr
- 5:00 P.M. Youth Group, FH/4th Flr

Monday, December 3

- 9:00 A.M. Eli's Place
- 12:00 P.M. Joy Circle Luncheon, OH Parlor

Tuesday, December 4

- 7:00 A.M. Men's Bible Study, Sunny Side Up
- 9:00 A.M. Eli's Place
- 9:00 A.M. Young Mothers' Bible Study, FH
- 11:00 A.M. Staff Mtg, OH 205
- 1:30 P.M. Eli's Place Staff Mtg, FH
- 5:30 P.M. Evangelism Comm. Mtg, OH
- 6:00 P.M. Scout Troop Pack 77, EB 3rd Flr

Wednesday, December 5

- 9:00 A.M. Eli's Place
- 11:00 A.M. Bible Study w/Ben, OH 310
- 4:45 P.M. Call to Prayer, SNC
- 5:00 P.M. 4th/5th Grade Bible Study, 304
- 5:30 P.M. Supper, FH
- 6:00 P.M. Bible Study, FH
- 6:00 P.M. Christianity 101, OH 205
- 6:00 P.M. Financial Peace/Legacy, OH 407
- 6:00 P.M. Joyful Noise Choir
- 6:00 P.M. Children's Choirs
- 6:00 P.M. Youth Girls Bible Study, EB 4th Flr
- 6:00 P.M. Youth Guys Bible Study, EB 4th Flr
- 6:00 P.M. UMW Board Mtg, OH 310
- 6:00 P.M. Susannah Wesley Circle, OH 309
- 7:15 P.M. Chancel Choir, EB 4th Flr

Thursday, December 6

- 9:00 A.M. Eli's Place
- 9:30 A.M. Sewing Class, OH Rm 310
- 12:00 P.M. Bible Study w/Nelle, Ruth's Chris
- 12:00 P.M. Courtney Gaines Cir. Luncheon, Savannah Yacht Club
- 6:00 P.M. Bible Study Fellowship, OH

Friday, December 7

- 9:00 A.M. Eli's Place & Drop In Care
- 9:30 A.M. Young Mothers' Bible Study Christmas Brunch, Nelle's Hm
- 10:00 A.M. Docent Tours

Saturday, December 8

- 11:00 A.M. Lessons & Carols Rehearsal

Pastor on Call This Week

Ben Martin912-547-1835

Wednesday Night Supper (12/5)
 Program: Bible Study-Christmas
 Teaching: Nelle Bordeaux
 Menu: BBQ Pork, Mac & Cheese,
 Squash Casserole, Children: Corn Dogs
 ***Make reservations NOW for
 Supper and the Children's Nativity
 Pageant on December 12.

A Record of Our Faithfulness

Attendance: (11/25/18)
 8:45 A.M. Worship 65
 11:00 A.M. Worship 296
Total Worship 361
 9:45 A.M. Sunday School XXX
 Nursery (8:45 & 11:00) XX



In Our Prayers.....

Janet Thompson, Betty Roberts (aunt of Anna Ivey), Ann Ernst, Ana Moleropullin, Sara Ryan (sister of Becky Pullin), Earl Goodwin (brother of Beth Aldrich), Kathy Delaigle, Diane Wells, Chad Kelly (friend of Robert McCorkle), Joel Williams, Lily Marler, Nicole Geen, Harriet Bland, Betty Miller (mother of Jeff Miller), Peggy Murphy, Mary Burnsed (mother of Marilyn Hitt), Craig Hanson, Les Wilkes, Cindy Murphy (daughter-in-law of Peggy Murphy), Alison White (niece of Linda Sapp), Jim Davis, George Vail, Carla Thomas, Spencer Davis, John Martin, Sr., Caroline Moore, John McKissick (grandfather of Richard Call), Scott Hunter (son-in-law of Art and Sandra McGowen), Sid Boone, Fenton McEvoy (son of Kate and Brian and grandson of Ron and Judy Freeman), Melissa Krawitz, George LeMay, Todd and Lauren Martin, Martha and Erv Sloan, George Wickham (father of Kelly Hagan), Chad Jacobs Family, Sherry Ingram, Vickie Coley (aunt of Will Coley), Randy Warner, Jim Gietzen, Janice Dukeman (daughter of Erv Sloan), Harley Anderson (infant son of David and Elizabeth Anderson), Chuck Brown (brother of Gail Rountree), Denise LeMay, Grace Crosby Utomo (friend of Jean Remley), Ann Lott, Patty James, Melinda Lanier, Toni Olds, Mark Thomas, Dick Wallace, Judy Freeman, Will Ronning, Debra Chapman (daughter-in-law of Ruth and Elton Stuenckel), Sandrae McCorkle, Vivian Wilson, Cheryl Richardson & Family, Nancy Beckmann, Mandy Hawkins and Family, Richard Bartels, Susan Clingman (cousin of Deanne Rimes), Sammy Reesman

At Home/Extended Care

Georgia Dickerson, Betty Murray, Bella Grace Bartels, Grace Bockes, Anne Chase, Becky Heckard, Hal Griner, Michael Mamalakis, Bobbie Mattox, Linda McKibben, Jack Miller (father of Jeff Miller), Ryan Sailors, Betty Weeks, Lillian O'Donovan, Lois Wooten

Military Serving Abroad/Stateside

Jerred Pyles, Max Jackson, Ryan Davis, Matt Hepinstall, Justin Geen, Matthew Allen, Matt and Melinda Allen, Evan Townsend, Yates Holleman, Daniel Ealy, Dan Barton, Justin Koenig, Joshua Laws, Rob Harless, Shea Murray, Charles Smock, Chris Watson, Whit Watts

In Sympathy...

The Washburn Family
 on the death of Karen's sister,
 Ruth Edenfield
 Brian Allen
 on the death of his mother,
 Patricia Woods