



# Welcome to St. John's Christian Church

“The Church on the Corner Whose Cornerstone is Christ”

Come **H**ear the **R**eason we're **I**nspired to **S**erve **T**ogether

A photograph of five lit candles of varying heights and colors (black, white, and grey) standing on a bed of pine needles. The candles are lit, and their flames are visible against a dark background.

**The Candle of Love**

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,  
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.  
We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

December 20, 2020

8:00AM & 10:30AM

**Welcome to our Worship of God!  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture and Prayer

Micah 5:2-5a

Prelude

Joshua Reeb & Lynne Christman

“The First Noel”

The Nativity Scene – Mary and Joseph

†Advent Hymns

#151, Verses 2 & 3, “Good Christian Men Rejoice”

#137, Verse 3, “What Child is This?”

#166, Verse 2, “We Three Kings”

Special Music

Raegan Rutledge

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Advent Wreath

The Candle of Love

Shawn, Jenna, Courtney & Camryn Stuckey

Advent Hymn

#148, “O Holy Night”

Children’s Message

Advent Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Sermon

“God’s Christmas Masterpiece”

†Hymn

#138, “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#136, Refrain (two times), “The First Noel”

†Postlude

“Christ is Born in Bethlehem”

## Scripture Readings

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### *Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup> “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.

### *Matthew 2:1-11*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasurers and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

## Sermon Notes

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Sermon "God's Christmas Masterpiece"

Scripture Matthew 2:1-11

1. God brings Mary to the Christ through an angel's message (Luke 1:26-38)
2. God brings Joseph to the Christ through a dream (Matthew 1:18-25)
3. God brings Elizabeth to the Christ through her Spirit-filled fetus (Luke 1:41-44)
4. God brings the shepherds to the Christ through an angel's message (Luke 2:8-20)
5. God brings the Magi to the Christ through a star (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11) and a Scripture (Matthew 2:6)

## Congregational Prayer

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Most Holy Father, open our hearts to receive your love, and open our eyes to recognize your love. Your love often comes in unexpected ways: not in a conquering christ, but in the Christ Child. Though many expected your love would be made manifest by the roaring of the Lion of Judah, your great love was and is seen most deeply and intimately in the willing sacrifice of the Passover Lamb. This Christmas, we receive and celebrate the gift that Christ is to us, the love we have in him. We pray, let us be people of love, reflecting your love into this world like a light in the darkness, that you might receive all the glory, honor, and praise. Amen.

# Merry Christmas!



## **Week of December 20 at St. John's Christian Church**

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Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	B.A.S.I.C./Forerunners, Women's Class
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	11:45AM	Brazil Luncheon (Fireside Room)
Mon	11:00AM	Staff Meeting (Office Closed)
	6:15PM	Spiritual Council (Chapel)
	7:30PM	Consistory (Chapel)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
Wed	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Fireside Room)
Thu	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Live Stream (YouTube Live)
	8:00PM	Christmas Eve Radio Program (96.1 WMTR)
Fri	10:30AM	Christmas Day Worship (Sanctuary)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	B.A.S.I.C./Forerunners, Women's Class
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)

## **Christmas Eve Live Stream and Radio Service**

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Glory to the newborn King! As a reminder, our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held via live stream and radio programming this year. We invite you to gather in warmth, comfort, love, and safety within your homes as we celebrate the birth of Christ! The Christmas Eve service will air on 96.1 WMTR at 8:00PM.

The live stream will be available in multiple places to ensure everyone has reliable access to the 7:00PM service:

- ◆ Church website: [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)
- ◆ Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnschurcharchbold](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurcharchbold) or [facebook.com/groups/stjohnsarchbold](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsarchbold)
- ◆ YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7nnE9q1fjpVenD6YBTFmIQ>

## **Welcome!**

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### **Guests and Visitors**

Welcome to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship the Lord together. We hope you feel God's love in a new, refreshing way. You can learn more about our church by visiting the "New to SJCC" page on our website at [www.stjohnsarchbold.org/newtosjcc](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org/newtosjcc) or by picking up a copy of "Getting to Know St. John's Christian Church: Visitor Brochure" at the literature rack near the office.

### **Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Station/Nursery Care**

We have a Mother's Room located near our sanctuary, currently limited to one family at a time. Nursery care for infants and pre-kindergarten children is currently suspended. A diaper changing station is located in the Mother's Room. We kindly ask you to sanitize items after use (i.e. changing pad, toys, etc.) using the wipes provided as a respectful gesture to other families with small children in need of the room.

**Children's and Large Print Bulletins** are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex.

**Hearing Assistance** is provided by our system for hearing aids with a "loop system" switch position.

### **Discovery Daily Devotional Guides**

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Discover Daily Devotional Guides are available in the hallway literature rack in the narthex (suggested donation \$6 each). You can also access the guide online at <https://scriptureunion.org/discovery/>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

December 20 – God Serves the Poor.....Psalm 82  
December 21 – You've Got a Friend in Me.....Zechariah 10:1-12  
December 22 – Dark Days, Bright Future.....Zechariah 14:1-11, 20, 21  
December 23 – Outsider or Insider?.....Matthew 1:1-17  
December 24 – Living the Dream.....Matthew 1:18-25  
December 25 – Unlikely Worshipers.....Matthew 2:1-12  
December 26 – The Unknown Unknowns.....Matthew 2:13-23

### **Next Sunday, December 27, 2020**

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Memorial Sunday

Sermon - "Enduring the Trial"

Scriptures - 1 John 5:1-5, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Revelation 3:10

## **Announcements**

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- ◆ 2021 Offering Envelops will be available for pickup starting Wednesday, December 23rd at a table in the narthex.
- ◆ Christmas Eve candle packets are available for pickup at the accessible entrance of the church. We invite you to take a set home for you and your family to light during either our 7:00PM live stream service or during the 8:00PM radio broadcast on 96.1 WMTR.

## **Health and Safety Guidelines**

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We encourage everyone to abide by these hygiene and safety practices:

- ◆ Wear a facial covering when in the building, unless you meet one of the exemptions.
- ◆ Sanitize/ wash hands frequently and cover coughs and sneezes.
- ◆ Stay home if you are sick, not feeling well, or live with or care for someone who is sick or not feeling well.
- ◆ Maintain 6' social distancing, including in the pews. Be mindful of people around you.
- ◆ Individuals and families seated in the back of the sanctuary should exit first.
- ◆ Offerings will be received in plates at the sanctuary doors. They can also be mailed to/ dropped off at the church office or given online at [stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com](http://stjohnschristianchurch.breezechms.com).

## **Distance Worship**

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We continue to offer distance worship options. Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30AM on 96.1 WMTR to listen to last week's worship service. Our 10:30AM worship service is streamed via YouTube Live, which can be accessed on the St. John's Christian Church website at [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org).

## **Today's Worship Servants**

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Accompanist - Buffy Riley

Worship & Song Leader - Andrew Rohrs

Easy Worship Tech - Tom Hines

Sound Tech - (8:00AM) Kelly Ducey, (10:30AM) James Grime

Video Tech (10:30AM) - Dean Sauder

Live Stream Tech (10:30AM) - Ryan Christman

Head Usher - Dave Walker

8:00AM Usher - Nancy Rupp

## **Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests:**

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Please pray for...

- ◆ Relief for exhausted health care workers, lonely care facility residents and other shut-ins, screen-weary teachers and students, and others burdened by the pandemic.
- ◆ Dean Buckenmeyer, who tested positive for COVID-19 this week.
- ◆ Kevin and Angie Neuenschwander, who are beginning to recover from COVID-19.
- ◆ Larry Woolace, who continues to receive monthly treatments for his prostate cancer.

Those serving in the Armed Forces...

- ◆ Brenden Bostelman, Fort Campbell, KY (Army) Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
- ◆ Kali Collins, Washington, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kohl Collins, Ft. Myers, VA (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Kyle Ducey, Suffolk, VA (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ◆ Brayden Hall, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO (Ohio Army Nat. Guard) (Son of Vond & Mary)
- ◆ Jared Kuntz, Washington, DC (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Eric Maag, Port Clinton, OH (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)
- ◆ Shayne & Taylor Pitts, Albuquerque, NM (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ David Richardson, Okinawa, Japan (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ◆ Joshua Richardson, Kaneohe, HI (Marines) (Son of Shannon and Yesi)
- ◆ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)



### **ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502

419-446-2545 † [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)

Sunday Worship at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)

Associate Pastor - Rev. Alex Young (Cell: 330-206-8762)

Admin. Assist. - Jocelyn Walker ([office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org))