

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

For December the McCook Food Pantry focus is;

Sugar, Flour and Taco seasoning in packets

Please have the items to the church by the end of the month.

Announcements:

~There will be a **candlelight Christmas Eve service** this year at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 24. In lieu of an in-person Christmas Day service this year, which is on Sunday, December 25, special “at-home Christmas kits” will be available the week prior for each person/family to take in order to worship at home on Christmas Day morning.

~**Christmas Day** At-home worship kits will be available at our Christmas Eve Service.

~**December 18th is the final Sunday to turn in any end-of-the-year offerings.** Offerings can be made until December 31st or postmarked by that date, if mailed.

~**Exciting News!:** The church has partnered with FlockNote as our a new communication platform. All texts, congregational notices, prayer requests, and e-newsletters will be coming from this service starting December 12th. This is an “opt-in” system, so, you will need to text UCCJOIN to 84576 in order to join this new communication system and receive the emails/texts, or you may let the church office know and your cell phone number and email address will be added (please fill out a form located on the table in the entry way). Let Karyn know if you need help:)

***Annual Meeting:**

Just a reminder that we will be holding our annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Committee Chairs please have all of your annual reports to Karyn by no later than Friday January 13th. If I do not have the report from your committee by the 13th, the annual report will be printed without it. Also, please get together with your committee to decide who will be your council delegate and who will be the alternate. Thank you very much.



**Experiencing God through Christian Fellowship
Sharing Christ's Love through Ministry to Others
Sharing the Hope and Promise of Jesus
Experiencing and Sharing Christ's Principles for Life**

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Jerry Bertelson, Minister

Karyn Montgomery, Administrative Assistant

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday in Advent

Order of Worship

Ashley Tieszen, Organist

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song & Advent Candle Lighting – Noel (Chris Tomlin & Lauren Diagle)

Opening Prayer & Greeting

Mary & Elizabeth

Pulpit side is Mary and organ side is Elizabeth.

Leader: In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and her name was Mary. (Luke 1.26)

Elizabeth: They say you should be careful what you pray for!

Mary: They say you should be careful what you pray for.

Elizabeth: For years we have prayed for a child, Zechariah and me.

Mary: For years, I have prayed for the deliverance of Israel. But I didn’t mean like this!

Elizabeth: I can’t be having a baby! At my age?

Mary: Me, having a baby? At my young age?

Elizabeth: But here I am. Pregnant as anyone could be!

Mary: And here I am pregnant! What will people think?

Elizabeth: I know what they’ll think. “Elizabeth?! We thought she was too old!”

Mary: And the terrible things they’ll call me...

Elizabeth: Long have they called me barren! But God has remembered me. The angel said – was there really an angel?

Mary: The angel said – was there really an angel?

Elizabeth: Gabriel was his name, and he said this child will be filled with God’s Spirit, even in my womb. He certainly is lively in there, and he’s filled me with such life. And hope. Hope for us all. His name will be John.

Mary: My baby’s name - His name will be Jesus.

Beginning Bell Choir – O Come, All Ye Faithful w/Hadassah on trumpet

Elizabeth: John will be great! He will prepare the way for the Messiah!

Mary: Jesus will be great! He will save our people from their sins.

Elizabeth: I’ve always said, Lord, there’s nothing you can’t do!

Mary: I’ve always said there’s nothing you can’t do. So, please, Lord, help me now.

Elizabeth: I have to talk to someone!

Mary: What am I going to do? Who can I tell?

Elizabeth: He never was much of a talker, my Zechariah. But now he’s speechless. Claims he can’t talk. The angel made him mute!

Mary: I must go and see my cousin. Only, please, Elizabeth, don’t condemn me!

Elizabeth: Mary! I could talk to her. She’s young. I’m old. Only, please, Mary, don’t laugh.

Mary: Yes, I can talk to her.

Elizabeth: And shout, and sing. I’d dance if I could!

Mary: Please, Elizabeth...

Elizabeth: Please, Mary...

Mary: I’m so afraid...

Elizabeth: Don’t laugh

Mary: Don’t condemn me.

Leader: She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah’s house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out energetically, “You’re so blessed among women, and the child in your womb, is also blessed! And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me? The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, The babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!” (Luke 1.39-45)

Sing – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #186 (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

Junior High Quartet

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

Simbyhaha

Charlie Brown Video

Adult Bell Choir

The Miracle Child (w/ Tess Olsen, soloist)

Come, Ye Shepherds

Pageant

PART I: MARY AND JOSEPH

Those who wish to portray Mary and Joseph are invited forward.

Marys will wear a blue shawl; Josephs will wear a burlap shawl.

Congregation listens to “Mary Did You Know?”

PART II: THE ANIMALS

Those who wish to be goats, sheep, cows or donkeys are invited to come forward. Animals are given masks or hats.

Congregation sings “O Holy Night” (vs. 1, 2, & 3)

PART III: ANGELS

Those who wish to be angels are invited forward.

Gold and silver garland halos will be handed out.

Congregation sings “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” #191 (vs. 1 & 3)

PART IV: SHEPHERD

Those who wish to be shepherds are invited forward.

They will be given candy canes to represent shepherd’s staffs

Congregation sings “Go Tell It On The Mountain.” #216

PART V: WISE PERSONS AND STAR

Those who wish to be Wise Persons are invited forward.

Colorful crowns and star on a stick are available to hold

Congregation sings “We Three Kings.” #220 (vs. 1 & 5)

PART VI: CONCLUSION

Adult Bell Choir w/congregation – The Carols of Christmas