



Bazetta Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Timothy McCollum, Pastor

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88580588190>

Radio Station 88.7 for Parking Lot

Celebrating the Lord's Day

at

Bazetta Christian Church

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Church Gathers Before God

GREETINGS IN CHRIST

PRELUDE

*ADVENT READING

Sharon Armstrong, Angie Rinzella, Sharon Posey

Reader 1: When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah Proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Reader 2: We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Light three candles of the Advent wreath.

SING

"One Candle is Lit"

#128, verse 3

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.

One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

#140

Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.

He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth.
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.

***CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

Michelle Aliesch, Liturgist

L: Let us join together in prayer.

Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith

***THE PEACE**

The people exchange with one another, by words and careful gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; The Message

The Spirit of GOD, the Master, is on me
because GOD anointed me.
He sent me to preach good news to the poor,
heal the heartbroken,
Announce freedom to all captives,
pardon all prisoners.
GOD sent me to announce the year of his grace—
a celebration of God’s destruction of our enemies—
and to comfort all who mourn,
To care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion,

give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,
Messages of joy instead of news of doom,
a praising heart instead of a languid spirit.
Rename them “Oaks of Righteousness”
planted by GOD to display his glory.
They’ll rebuild the old ruins,
raise a new city out of the wreckage.
They’ll start over on the ruined cities,
take the rubble left behind and make it new.

“Because I, GOD, love fair dealing
and hate thievery and crime,
I’ll pay your wages on time and in full,
and establish my eternal covenant with you.
Your descendants will become well-known all over.
Your children in foreign countries
Will be recognized at once
as the people I have blessed.”
I will sing for joy in GOD,
explode in praise from deep in my soul!
He dressed me up in a suit of salvation,
he outfitted me in a robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom who puts on a tuxedo
and a bride a jeweled tiara.
For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers,
and as a garden cascades with blossoms,
So the Master, GOD, brings righteousness into full bloom
and puts praise on display before the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

***DOXOLOGY**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#119, verse 3

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.

Refrain:

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55; The Voice

Mary said: My soul lifts up the Lord!

My spirit celebrates God, my Liberator!

For though I'm God's humble servant,

God has noticed me.

Now and forever,

I will be considered blessed by all generations.

For the Mighty One has done great things for me;

holy is God's name!

From generation to generation,

God's lovingkindness endures

for those who revere Him.

God's arm has accomplished mighty deeds.

The proud in mind and heart,

God has sent away in disarray.

The rulers from their high positions of power,

God has brought down low.

And those who were humble and lowly,

God has elevated with dignity.

The hungry—God has filled with fine food.

The rich—God has dismissed with nothing in their hands.

To Israel, God's servant,

God has given help,

As promised to our ancestors,

remembering Abraham and his descendants in mercy forever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“joy”

SONG OF PRESENTATION

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

#130

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is her name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

***DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IDENTITY STATEMENT**

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

COMMUNION PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Words of Institution

Communion Music

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Christ Has Died

Christ Is Risen

Christ Will Come Again

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Joy to the World"

#143

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rock, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Anthony Ruggiero, Musician

**All who are able may stand.*

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THIS WEEK AT BAZETTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Tuesday:	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Thursday:	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal
4th Sunday of Advent	10:00 a.m.	Worship
Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship

In case of emergencies:

Fire Alarm: Calmly and quickly evacuate the building. Reassemble at the pavilion next to the garage. No longer at flagpole. Do not block the fire lanes. All doors in the sanctuary lead to outside exits.

Tornado Warning: Calmly and quickly exit through the rear doors and assemble in the hallway of the Educational Wing/Child Care area. Stay away from all doors and windows.

Gunshots or Threats: Duck down between the pews to shield yourself and allow the Security Team to handle the situation.

Open Communion and Offering Information

We celebrate the Communion of the Lord's Supper every week. It is open to ALL Christians. Everyone who is able is invited to come to the front by rows. A piece of bread and cup of grape juice will be given to you to partake. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

Kneelers are available on each side for those who wish to stop and pray. If you are not able to come forward for any reason, a plate and cup will be offered to you. If you prefer not to partake, just indicate that when offered the elements.

The offering that we share in worship is part of our shared commitment to doing ministry together. In our offering, we reflect that we are called to share in the blessings we have that others may be blessed. Offering bowls are provided in the center and right-hand aisles.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! As we come together to celebrate this third Sunday of Advent, let us lift up our heads to see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory, our Savior and Redeemer!

If you have questions concerning membership with this congregation, speak with Pastor Tim or any of the BCC Elders (Dan Davis, Paula Davis, Jim Dolgae, Heather Faler, Myra May, Christy McCollum, Valarie Rizzo, Michelle Stineman, Megen Stocker, Larry Swiger).

2024 Offering Envelopes are available on the table by the office door. Please sign your name on the paper by the number of the box of envelopes you chose. There are weekly and monthly envelopes.

Christmas Services

4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 24
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24,
Candlelight Worship at 5:00 p.m.

The BCC office will be closed on
December 25 and December 26.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Loose Change Mission Jar: We are collecting loose change in the Gathering Space for missions. From October through December, the funds will go to Youngstown Blue Coats. Thank you!

“TREASURED”

“The Lord has chosen you to be a people for His possession.”
Deuteronomy 14:2

Friday, January 26, and Saturday, January 27, 2024
Holiday Inn Express
135 Highland Terrace Boulevard
Warren, Ohio 44484
330-544-1408

Room Accommodations:

Standard Queen	4 person max	\$119.00 + tax = \$136.55
Standard King	2 persons max	\$119.00 + tax = \$135.55
King Suite	2 persons max	\$129.00 + tax = \$148.03

The meals will be included with room payment: dinner on January 26 and breakfast and lunch on January 27.

A non-overnight option is available with dinner and lunch provided for a fee of \$30.00.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

Sign up sheet and registration forms are available.

Room arrangements booked by Holiday Inn group code BZT

Credit card required at booking, payment at check out.

Church registration contact is Valarie Rizzo, 330-717-2591.

We are the precious treasure possession of our heavenly Father, who sought us and claimed us as His own in Christ! From coal to diamonds, we are being transformed in Christ, reflecting His glory and light to a dark world.

Join us for a sparkling Retreat Getaway! We will walk in the light of God's Word together, enjoy fabulous food and tasty treats, and lift our voices in praise as we share encouragement, fellowship, and fun in.

CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.