



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 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Church Gathers Before God

GREETINGS IN CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC

"Even So, Come" – Chris Tomlin

*ADVENT READING

Rex and Kay Pealer

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.

SING

"One Candle is Lit"

#128, verse 4

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#144

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

L: Let us join together in prayer.

God, it's a big day. In the midst of all the things we may be planning for ourselves, help us see the gift You have meant for us. In the season in which generosity abounds, may love grow greater still. Send your Spirit upon us that we might proclaim a story of love that changes everything. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen.

***THE PEACE**

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

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

“Heaven and Nature Sing” – arr. Camp Kirkland

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Megen Stocker, Liturgist

Romans 16:25-27; Contemporary English Version

Praise God! He can make you strong by means of my good news, which is the message about Jesus Christ. For ages and ages this message was kept secret, but now at last it has been told. The eternal God commanded his prophets to write about the good news, so that all nations would obey and have faith. And now, because of Jesus Christ, we can praise the only wise God forever! Amen.

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 4

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38; New English Translation

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled by his words and began to wonder about the meaning of this greeting. So the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! Listen: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.

"And look, your relative Elizabeth has also become pregnant with a son in her old age—although she was called barren, she is now in her sixth month! For nothing will be impossible with God." So Mary said, "Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"love"

SONG OF PRESENTATION

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#148

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
Refrain.

***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

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Christ Has Died

Christ Is Risen

Christ Will Come Again

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

#125

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

***BENEDICTION**

SONG OF SENDING

“Glory” – Matt Maher

One star burns in the darkness
Shines with the promise
Emmanuel
One child born in the stillness
Living within us
Emmanuel
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace
Let there be peace
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace,
Let it start in me.
One voice speaks for the voiceless
Hope for the hopeless
Emmanuel
One love brings us together
Now and forever
Emmanuel
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace,
Let there be peace
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace,
Let it start in me

Do not be afraid
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us
Do not be afraid
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us
We sing glory, glory
Let there be peace
Let there be peace
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace,
Let it start in me
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace
Let there be peace
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace
Let it start in me
Let there be peace,
Let it start in me.

Darlene Ball, Choir Director

*All who are able may stand.

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THIS WEEK AT BAZETTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Tuesday: 9am-12pm BCC Work Day
 7:00 p.m. Scouts

Thursday: 9am-12pm BCC Work Day
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Next Sunday: 10:00 a.m. 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 fourth 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.



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



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



BCC Work Days

Tuesday, December 26 & Thursday, December 28
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Help wanted for parlor and kitchen updates

Poinsettias

Thank you to the following people for the beautiful poinsettias adorning our chancel area:

In honor of Darlene Ball from the Chancel Choir

In memory of family and friends from Mike and Sue Jackson

In memory of our parents from Tom and Sandy Maloy

2 - In memory of Charles Murphy and in honor of our family and friends from Don and Grace Murphy

In memory of Fred, Debbie, Karen, and Barb from Doris Northcutt

2 – In memory of Ron Rinzella and in honor of my grandchildren, Vallarie and Cameron
from Angie Rinzella

Poinsettias can be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

“TREASURED”

Friday, January 26, and Saturday, January 27, 2024
Holiday Inn Express, Warren, Ohio
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 Sunday, January 7, 2024.

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.