

Welcome to worship!

Where there is text in **bold type**, you are invited to speak the words printed there just as we do with responsive readings in church.

Announcements

We still have plenty of jars of jams and jellies for purchase with the proceeds going to mission and relief efforts. Contact the church office (517-423-2523) or Bonnie Greene (517-423-4445, 517-902-5217) for more information or to purchase. The jams and jellies are on display in the classroom at the end of the hallway across from the church office and pastor's study.

We need more links in our prayer chain. We have only four. We've been known as a praying church. Let's keep prayer a ministry that makes a difference, especially in these difficult times. Please call Deb Blanden (517-423-6004) or Bonnie Greene (517-423-4445) to become a link in the prayer chain.

Advent Devotional – Build a Manger Scene

Please see the last page

Centering

Centering Reading

Isaiah 40.1-5

Centering Music

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – Charles Wesley, Rowland Prichard

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Bible Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophesy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.”

John was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Message

“Opening Act”

Notes:

Music

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

– performed by The Schnitzel Trio
Susan Koppelman & Sharon Miller, vocals
Duane Koppelman, accordion

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;
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;
O sin, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

A Few Words About the COVID Crisis

. . . Wear a face mask around others. Stay at a distance. Stay safe.

Prayer

Notes (joys, concerns, for self & others):

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Advent Project - Build a Manger Scene

Every other year, we have lit candles in an Advent wreath. This year, we're trying



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Christmas story, the Magi (Wise

