

Gaylord United Church of Christ



First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020 - 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *"Carol of the Bells/Jingle Bells"* Sandy Wentzloff

The Call **Beloved people of God. The powerful message of Christ's coming to save us we celebrate today in this worship service of music and Scripture. We come in the spirit of joy to prepare our hearts, minds, and God's house for this wonderful season.**

Opening Hymn *"Lift Up Your Heads"* NCH #117

**Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.**

Reader 1: With what shall we come to adorn God's house?

Reader 2: **What can remind us of the coming joy?**

Reader 1: What can remind us of the coming peace?

Reader 2: **What can we bring?**

People: **Bring bells of rejoicing!
Bring Branches of cedar and holly!
Bring evergreens and a pine tree!
Bring flowers and berries of red!
Hang wreaths and garlands!**

Leader: Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and
candles glowing

People: **In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets let us
make our hearts and this space a place of inward and
outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song. **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering. **Refrain**

Leader: Isaiah 61:3
O provide for those who mourn in Zion—
To give them garlands instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness instead of sadness,
The mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of faithful living,
The planting of the Lord, to display His glory.

**People: Make this place glad: adorned with green
Wreaths now hung are clearly seen
So shall God's gift of life be seen
Garlands, too, are gaily hung, His praises gladly sung.**

Deck the Halls

Bell Tree

Garlands and wreaths

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la, la la la la
'Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la la, la la la, la la la
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing yule before us
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Follow me in merry measure
Fa la la la la la la la la,
While I tell of Yuletide treasure
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away, the old year passes
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
Fa la la la la, la la la la,
Sing we joyous all together,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la, la la la la

Lighting the Trees

Leader: God, the Holy One of Israel, is a God of comfort and compassion.
With the Christmas tree we remember God's everlasting promises to
the poor and needy. Isaiah spoke of God's making of the wilderness
a place of blessing where water and plants, even pine trees, would
manifest God's loving action to save and provide.

People: Light the trees, good friends, to light the way of our journey!

O Christmas Tree

light trees

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches.

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,
How lovely are thy branches.
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum,
How lovely are thy branches.

Your boughs so green in summertime
Stay bravely green in wintertime
O Tannenbaum, O Christmas tree
How lovely are thy branches.

Leader: Isaiah 53:3-5

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

People: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our unfair actions; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

**People: Make this place glad:
Let brilliant red this wondrous news proclaim
For us the Savior's life was given
O praise His blessed name.**

Special Music

"My Grownup Christmas List"

Sandy Wentzloff

Bring in Poinsettias

Advent Wreath

Lighting the First Advent Candle

One: God of justice and of peace —
You color the world with mercy and kindness.

Many: We stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous artistry.

One: God of promise and of love —
You illuminate the skies with rainbow and sun-ray.

Many: We rejoice in the majesty of your creation.

One: The spectrum of your love reveals light all around.
The hues of your love warm our spirits.
The vibrancy of your love saturates us with hope.

Many: Blessed is the God of love whose art expressed in Christ we anticipate.

One: We light this candle in abundant hope that the radiance of you, O God,
will shine in our hearts, coloring us with hope,
as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ,

Many: We who wait on the Lord are filled with hope.

Hymn

“Christ Be Our Light”

**Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness
Christ be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.**

Verse: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

**Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness
Christ be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.**

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a
land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. -- Isaiah 9:2

Special Music

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Sandy Wentzloff
Candles

Proclamation of Hope: Isaiah 61:1

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 broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and
Release to the prisoners;

Hymn

“Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn”

NCH #107
Slides of flags

**Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.**

Benediction

Postlude

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Sandy Wentzloff



Remember in Prayer: Jim Peterson, Bill Walsh, David Bias (Diane Mosel's brother), Greg Armstrong (Howard's brother), Dick Carlson, Ann Pinske (Ted's sister-in-law), Ewald Keller, Bill Cowell, Eunice Gasow, and Aggie Schue. We pray for health and healing for all people. Pray for the ministries of our church. Pray for those serving in the military and for our local and national leaders.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Dale and Cindy Johnson and their family on the passing of Dale's brother Lawrence (Lonnie) Johnson on Nov. 14th.

Happy Birthday to Ewald Keller who turned 90 on November 25th!

If you have a prayer request or would like to receive a call from Pastor Dennis call his office at 237-2595 (leave a private voice mail) or his cell 763-258-3371

Pastor Dennis is usually in the office each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He can be reached at the office, 237-2595 (private voice mail) or his cell: 763-258-3371. E-mail: dmckee545@gmail.com • Website at listen2god.org

Please remember how important your financial support of the ministry of Gaylord United Church of Christ is especially in this time.

We pray for wisdom of leaders, the support of us all in doing what we can to suppress the spread of corona virus, and the safety of all our friends, families, and people of the world. *God is Good, all the time.*

Tithes, Offerings and Pledges can be sent to Gaylord United Church of Christ P.O. Box 385 Gaylord, MN 55334. You can also donate on our website or drop off at the church office on Wednesday between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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- ❖ **Thank you** to those who helped decorate the church for the holidays. Thanks to Howard Armstrong for getting the Christmas tree.
 - ❖ **Next Sunday, December 6th, is Communion Sunday.** The service of Communion will be included in the printed and video service. As usual, Communion cups and wafers can be picked up at the church on Wednesday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
 - ❖ Our From the Heart Offering in November goes to *Santa's Helpers*.
 - ❖ Women's Fellowship is selling dish cloths. Cost is \$1.00 each.
 - ❖ **Mission Board is sponsoring "Coats for Kids"** Bring your donations of gently used or new winter wear to church until the end of the year.
 - ❖ **Mission Board** is also collecting donations of new toys, games, hats and mittens, quilts, wrapping paper and monetary donations for *Santa's Helpers*. These items can be brought to church and placed by the Mitten Tree thru December 6th.

*****Drop off donations at church inside the back door on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thank You.**

