



Offering Jesus Christ to everyone through worship, prayer, study, mission, and fellowship.

2020 E. Washington Street, Monticello, IL 61856

December 20, 2020 8:30 am



Preparation for Worship

I know now waiting cannot be passive. I have no inner stable, but in my heart, I can make room. Move over doubt. Move over despair. Make room for Truth, for Love. Make room for the Prince of Peace. --K. Clark-Dickens

Announcements

Focus Scripture

Luke 1:46b-55

Prelude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hughes

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God looks kindly on us when we are at our lowest.

People: Rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: God has done great things for us in times past. God will do great things for us in days to come.

People: Rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: Christ's mercy is upon us, offering hope in times of despair.

People: Rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: Christ's love has made us whole.

People: Rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: Even as we are filled this day, may we live to nourish a world in need!

***Hymn**

Angels, We Have Heard on High

No. 238

1 Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

3 Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

4 See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

Common Prayer

Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered today to worship you. As we follow in Mary's footsteps, open our hearts, that we might be filled with your goodness and your love. Live in us, that we might bear the Christ light for all to see. Overshadow us with your presence, that we might truly be blessed and offer your blessing of love to the world. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kim and Greg Alvis

Reader One: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader Two: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader One: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

Reader Two: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

Kid's Time

Message

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Sharing of our Gifts and Lives

*Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 234

1. 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.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Refrain)

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

***Benediction**

Live your lives knowing that God strengthens you; Jesus Christ dwells in your hearts;
and the Holy Spirit guides you now and forever. Amen.

***Postlude**

Christmas Carol Medley

Hughes

Worship Assistants today:

Song Leader: Kathy Brown
Organist: Mary Ellen Dean
Tech Support: Jamie Hannah
Sound Tech: Arthur Sievers



Our Staff:

Pastor: Kathy Bueker Sweet
Office Manager: Mary Catherine St. John
Director of Music: Kathy Brown
Director of Youth Ministries: Natalie McDowell
Director of Family Ministries: Mary Catherine St. John

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Important information to know...

You may reach Rev. Kathy at 815-370-3039.

Live Radio Broadcast 8:30 a.m. WCZQ 105.5 FM

Announcements

The loose change offering this month is for Habitat.

Today is the day! We are having a drive thru Christmas cookie event to help spread Christmas joy. Come by between 3p-5p for your bag of homemade cookies, smiles and other goodies! We will also have the Christmas Eve bulletin, newsletter, and Upper Rooms to distribute. We look forward to seeing you!

Hey Church! I am looking for some help with kids ministry. Would you be willing to video a short devotion for the kids to see Sunday morning? I will provide the scripture, the devotion and the closing prayer, and anything else you need! Please consider helping. You can use

this Sign-Up genius to select a Sunday that works for you. Thank you in advance for your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4DA4AB2CA6FC1-kids>

Do you know someone who has a special need or would like a phone call? Please call the office and let us know. Caring for each other has become a bit more difficult during covid--but not impossible!

Have you tried our new APP and website? We are excited for its launch. It is a great way to receive information about what is happening in the church. It is available in the Google Play store and Apple store.

Today

8:30 am Worship -- online and radio
3-5 pm Christmas Cookie Drive Thru!
6:30 pm Youth Group

Tuesday, December 22

8:30 am Just Walking (via Zoom)
7:00 pm Prayer Time with Rev. Kathy (via Zoom)

Thursday, December 24

Church Office Closes at 11 am

4 pm Christmas Eve Service (via Facebook)

Friday, December 25--Merry Christmas!

9 am Christmas Day Service (via Facebook)

Sunday, December 27

8:30 am Worship -- online and radio