



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

2020 E. Washington Street, Monticello, IL 61856

December 13, 2020 8:30 am



Preparation for Worship

Accustom yourself continually to make many acts of love, for they enkindle the soul.  
--Teresa of Avila

Announcements

Focus Scripture

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prelude

*Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come*

Denton

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Rejoice in our God. Let us give thanks, whatever life brings.

People: ***May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.***

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and our world for the Prince of Peace, who is coming.

People: ***May all who weep come home with shouts of joy.***

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight the path for God's arrival.

People: ***In prayer, song, and service, let us prepare for the birth of love.***

\*Hymn

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

No. 196

1. 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.

2. 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.

Common Prayer

***Spirit of God, we give you thanks for drawing near, for touching the world in the savior's birth. Help us draw near to you, as we prepare our hearts and our world for the justice and peace you bring. Guide our preparations for Christmas, as we share the good news with those who suffer, and as we offer our friendship to those who are alone, Move within our hearts, as we make a way for your coming, by forgiving others***

*as we have been forgiven. Come, Spirit of God; be born in us anew, that we may live in your mercy and your grace. Amen.*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kristle, Kyle, Madisyn & MaKenna Meece

**Reader One:** We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

**Reader One:** We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Kid’s Time

Message

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Sharing of our Gifts and Lives

\*Hymn

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

No. 240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**\*Benediction**

Hold fast to what is good, let us live our lives as children of God's promise Amen!

**\*Postlude**

*And the Glory of the Lord*

Handel

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 Chancel Flowers** are in celebration of Elaine and David Holloway's 25th Wedding Anniversary. They are thankful for their children, grandchildren and good health!

**The Chancel Flowers** are in celebration of Louise and Dale Brewer's 65th Wedding Anniversary that was December 11th.

The loose change offering this month is for Habitat.

The Cookie ladies are hosting a drive thru Christmas cookie event to help spread Christmas cheer. Come by between 3p-5p for your bag of homemade cookies, smiles and other goodies! We will also have the Christmas Eve bulletin and newsletter 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  
5:00 pm       Middle School youth group (via Zoom)  
6:00 pm       Whole Hearts youth mission team (via Zoom)  
6:30 pm       High School youth group (via Zoom)

**Tuesday, December 15**

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

**Thursday, December 17**

8:30 am       Just Walking (via Zoom)  
6:30 pm       Hymn Sing on Facebook live

**Sunday, December 20**

8:30 am       Worship -- online and radio  
6:30 pm       Youth Group Christmas party (via Zoom)