

in unsuspected and surprising ways.
One: Love has come. Arise and shine – with the sun!
Many: **Love has come in newborn grace to offer truth and God a face.**

BENEDICTION *Silent Night* Congregation
Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

(Hum entire verse)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Transitional Pastor: *Rev. Glen A. Shedlock*
Minister of Music: *Benjamin Knight*
Choir Director: *Kimberly Knight*
Secretary: *Kelly Gerstenberger*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847
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Sunday, July 24, 2022



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

† Sunday, July 24, 2022 †

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Christmas In July

PIANO PRELUDE

Christmas Overture
Benjamin Knight

Larry Shackley

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our eyes to the wonder of this story, that we might catch a glimpse of your glory in the simplicity of these moments.

Many: May your light of hope shine!

One: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and soften our hearts to the message of this hour, that we might turn toward you, and have the way prepared in us for your coming.

Many: May your light of peace shine!

One: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and open our minds to truly listen to all who speak and sing today, that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

Many: May your light of joy shine!

One: Immanuel, God-with-us, interrupt and fill our spirits with the courage to admit when we are lost and the insight to recognize that we have been found.

Many: May your light of love shine!

One: Immanuel, God-with-us, with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full, we rejoice that you interrupt what we have in mind to bring into being something more than we dare imagine.

Many: May your light shine! Amen!

CHORAL PRELUDE

Still, a Bach Christmas

Jay Althouse

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE PROMISE

LUKE 3:3 - 6; 15 - 18

³John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

AN URGENT MESSAGE

LUKE 2:15 - 20

¹⁵When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." ¹⁶They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

MUSIC

O Holy Night

Rev. Glen Shedlock, soloist

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

One: In the midst of it all...a government tax, a burdened journey, a burgeoned town, no room in the midst of it all. In the midst of it all...each single life, here and now, walks the hard pavement of ordinary life, wading through the sinking mud or flash flood of waking tasks, worried racks of anxious unknowns.

Many: But, somewhere in this night, the desert night of long ago, or this daily desert of a road—a twinkling here, a shining there, a flower blooms in deepest winter. Love has come and calms the shiver.

One: A warming kiss, a soft embrace, a lighted window, a stable place. In the midst of it all...a hard won labor, grace is born in fleshly groans. The baby cries his birthday song as angels weep and sweep, the heaven-to-earthbound glory.

Many: And, love has come, to each and every one of us, whether our eyes are open and we perceive, or closed in lonely fear. We will receive this love come to us – whether open-hearted in abundant waves, or

joyous news for all people. ¹¹Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴"Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

HYMN *The First Noel* Congregation

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Congregation

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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

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!"

HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* Congregation

And wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁴This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.

⁶All humanity will see God's salvation."

¹⁵The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." ¹⁸With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Congregation

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

MUSIC *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore* Choir
Charles Coffin

THE VISITATION LUKE 1:26 - 38

²⁶When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹She was

confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
³⁰The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

³⁵The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. ³⁶Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. ³⁷Nothing is impossible for God.”

³⁸Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

MUSIC *Mary, Woman of the Promise* Choir
Mary Frances Fleischaker

MUSIC *Mary, Did You Know?* *Kimberly Knight, soloist*
Words by Lowry; Music by Greene; Setting by Schrader;

THE JOURNEY LUKE 2:1 - 5

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ²This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Congregation
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 wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his 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 Lord Emmanuel!

THE BIRTH LUKE 2:6 - 7

⁶While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

HYMN *Away in a Manger* Congregation

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord
Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my
side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and take us to heaven
to live with you there.

MUSIC *Come to the Stable with Jesus* Choir
Geoffrey O’Hara, arr. Carl Deis

A STORY FOR THE CHILDREN *Room for a Little One* Martin Waddell

THE ANNOUNCEMENT LUKE 2:8 - 14

⁸Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful,

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 24, 2021:

10:30 a.m. In-Person & Live-Stream (Facebook) Worship Service,
Rev Glen Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship/Social Hour - Beverages, Social Hall

Monday, July 25, 2021:

Tuesday, July 26, 2021:

6:45 - 9:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA, Heritage Room

Wednesday, July 27, 2021:

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Legacy Barbershop Rehearsal, Heritage Room

6:45 - 9:30 p.m. Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Social Hall

Thursday, July 28, 2021:

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, July 29, 2021:

Saturday, July 30, 2021:

6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, July 31, 2021:

10:30 a.m. In-Person & Live-Stream (Facebook) Worship Service,
Rev. Glen Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship/Social Hour - Beverages, Social Hall

Altar Flowers: Thank You!

Dedication: *Thank You!*

Liturgist: Thank You!

PowerPoint: Kathie Richards

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WELCOME

We joyfully welcome all visitors!

Please join us again!

We are very glad You chose to Worship with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invite family and friends to join us for:

Lemonade on the Lawn, August 14th

after our morning church service!

Enjoy a light lunch and delicious beverages under the shade of our big trees
with fellowship and activities for all ages.

Help will be needed with set-up/clean-up, and food.

See Kathie Richards to sign-up.

We're looking forward to seeing you!

Children's Bulletins are now available for ages 3 to 6 and 7 and older. These are located in the activity bags in the narthex. Take the bulletins home and leave the bags with the other supplies in the pews when you leave today!!

Pastoral Search Committee:

Resigned, Chairperson

Bob Kindel, Chaplain

Cindy Spenoso

Katherine Subichin, Secretary

David Kump

Next Meeting: TO BE ANNOUNCED

PRAYERS & PRAISES

- ◇ The family & friends of Rich Plant, who died on July 15th, passing on to the life beyond!
- ◇ Cindy dealing with skin cancer.
- ◇ Neill, in the hospital following a motorcycle accident, fighting paralysis.
- ◇ Katherine's friend, Stacey, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ◇ Chris' wife and family for strength and courage.
- ◇ Alan dealing with cancer issues.
- ◇ Gun violence ripping apart families and communities.
- ◇ Love for all people.