

December 17, 2017

The Longest Night



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member or a stressful time due to a loss, such as divorce or unemployment. The cheerful Christmas message heard in the stores or on the radio and television reminds many people of what they have lost. The anguish of loss or the weariness of ill health, can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating around us.

The days grow shorter, with the shortest day on December 21, which may intensify the darkness we feel in our hearts. Our "Longest Night" service on **December 21st at 6pm in the chapel** provides a place to come receive encouragement to live the days ahead of us and to be reminded that with each day ahead, there is a little more light, both in reality and through the promise God has given to us through sending Jesus into our world.

Come share the message that God's light shines into the darkness, light a candle, and hear God's word of hope through this contemplative, quiet service.

Worship Opportunities on December 24

9:02 am—Worship, Faith Center

11:00 am—Worship, Sanctuary

5:00 pm —Children's & Family Christmas Eve, Faith Center

7:00 pm —Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir & Brass, Sanctuary

11:00 pm —Candlelight with Family Choir, wind ensemble & Communion, Sanctuary

There is no 8:30 am service on December 24

The *Children's and Family Christmas Eve service*, on December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Faith Center, has been specially designed in order to engage young children in the telling of the Christmas story. There will be simple costumes provided as you enter the Faith Center. Carols, scripture and congregational interaction will help to make the Christmas story come alive.

The church offices will be closed on December 25.



December 17, 2017

Faithful People Thank God for Jesus

Luke 2:22-40

We thank God for Jesus.

GROVE is in recess until Jan. 7, 2018.
Children's Choirs in recess until Jan. 17.

NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY



December 17, 2017

Sunday Night Youth & Confirmation Classes are in recess until January 7, 2018

MERRY CHRISTMAS

St. John's Missions News



Epworth Children's Home provides safe and caring residential care for children and youth in a Christian community. Hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

Please pray that these children will have a blessed Christmas!

LOOKING AHEAD

- Dec. 21** - Longest Night Service (6pm, chapel)
- Dec. 24** - Worship services (9:02 & 11)
- Dec. 24** - Children's and Family Christmas Eve Service—5 pm (Faith Center)
- Dec. 24** - Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir & brass—7pm (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 24** - Candlelight with family choir, wind ensemble and communion—11 pm (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 31** - Church-wide communion & Wesley Covenant Service
- Jan. 12** - Primetimers Travel Talk
- Jan. 26-28** - Revolution Retreat (youth)
- Jan. 27** - Saturday of Service
- Jan. 28** - MIC Sunday (one service at 10:30) with lunch following
- Mar. 2-4** - Confirmation Retreat (youth)

WELCOME VISITORS!

The members of St. John's welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to return often.



Announcements

The Worship Support Team would like to thank the church members who provided the beautiful poinsettias that decorate our sanctuary and Faith Center. You are reminded you may pick up the one you donated after the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve service. The team would also like to thank EVERYONE who so willingly gave of their time, talents, and energy in decorating our sanctuary and Faith Center for the holidays. You all are VERY much appreciated. THANK YOU and God bless!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL JANUARY.

St. John's Congo Initiative

Would you be willing to give \$10 for a Pastor's Christmas?

Today, December 17, we will collect money for the Congo Pastors at tables near the exits after each service, and provide Christmas Cards for you to sign. The cards and money will be sent to the North Katanga Annual Conference for distribution. We want to help 638 pastors have a blessed Christmas. Please plan to give via cash, check or by texting stjaken to 73256 and select "Congo Pastors."



In honor of Jesus' Birthday this Christmas, provide the gift of Scriptures to many in our world through the Gideon Ministry.
How do I send my gift?

Obtain and complete the envelope from the card display located in the hall outside the church office. Insert your check payable to "Gideons" and mail the addressed envelope. Take also a colorful "Birthday for Jesus" card and hang it on your Christmas Tree. Your gift is 100% tax deductible and its entirety will be used for the purchase and placement of scriptures.

REMINDER FROM FINANCE

PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE A RECURRING CONTRIBUTION SET UP ONLINE, YOU WILL NEED TO CHANGE THE EXPIRATION DATE AND THE AMOUNT TO REFLECT YOUR 2018 PLEDGE.

Year to date tithes and offerings for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 1,921,929.98
Year to date ministry expenditures:	\$ <u>1,734,802.18</u>
Year to date variance:	\$ 187,127.80
<i>We thank you for your generous support of the ministries of St. Johns!</i>	
2016/17 Faith Promise Carryover	\$ 10,357.64
Year to date Faith Promise offerings for our missions:	\$ 139,575.31
Year to date missions disbursements:	\$ 132,050.00
<i>We thank you for generously supporting the missions of St. Johns!</i>	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 566,300.00
12/13/17 Principal Payment	\$ <u>3,100.00</u>
Balance on Loan	\$ 563,200.00

News of the Family

Welcome to our new member:

Bill Busser

Our congratulations to:

Deri and Spencer Beard on the birth of their granddaughter, **Ava Grace Huxford**, on December 8 in Ferndale, WA to **David and Cece Huxford**.

Our sympathy to:

Susan and Terry McDonald on the death of their grandson, **Brandon Thomas**, on December 7 in Asheville, NC.

In Memoriam

Brandon Cody Thomas

December 7, 2017

CHURCH HOSTS

Hosts the week of December 17, 2017

Sunday AM	Frank Smith, III
EVENING	
Sunday	Eric Randall
Monday	Tom McCollum
Tuesday	Charlie Neill
Wednesday	Chuck Bryan
Thursday	Barry Pearson
Friday	Rocky Lord
Saturday	Dave Felak
Dec. 24	Todd Campbell



December
Tuna
Collection bins
located in the
narthex and
the
Faith Center.

Attendance

12/10/17
8:30 165
9:02 203
11:00 525
Total 893

DECEMBER 17, 2018
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Services
Third Sunday in Advent—Gaudete Sunday

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALL TO WORSHIP

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING with RESPONSE—Mary & Bob Kosky
Congregational response #211, verse 3

THE WORD BECAME FLESH by Dan Goeller
Presented by St. John's Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Catherine Stapleton Nance, Director
Christopher Nash, Organ
Rev. Dr. John M. Stapleton, Jr. Narrator

Prelude: Christmas Fantasy for Orchestra
This Is My Father's World ~ John 1:1; Col. 1:15-16a, 17; Gen. 1:26-27, 31
The Fall of Man ~ Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6; Romans 5:12, 3:23
Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ~ Ephesians 2:4-5a, 8

The Savior Foretold ~ Isaiah 9:6-7
Unto Us a Child Will Be Born

The Angel Gabriel ~ Luke 1:26-33
Gabriel's Message with Gloria and Magnificat

The Child Is Born ~ Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 2:1, 3-7; John 1:14
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly and Silent Night, Holy Night

Good News of Great Joy ~ Luke 2:8-14
Gloria in Excelsis Deo

The Shepherds' Joy ~ Luke 2:15-18, 20
***CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS: Angels We Have Heard on High and**
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(1) *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!

(2) *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!

(3) *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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

(4) *Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!*
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

OFFERTORY

The Wise Men ~ Matthew 2:1-11a

The Word Became Flesh ~ John 1:10-14

We Have Seen His Glory ~ John 1:14; Philippians 2:11

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah

(Sheet music is available from the ushers)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|

|: For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
|: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|

The kingdom of this world
Is become the kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,
|: King of kings, and Lord of lords, :|
And Lord of lords,
And He shall reign,
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings, forever and ever,
And Lord of lords,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever,
|: King of kings! and Lord of lords! :|
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

***Those who are able, please stand.**

Aiken Brass appears as part of the orchestra by a generous gift provided by Steve and Christy Kisner in honor of their grandchildren, Robbie, Riley and Diana Street, along with Cooper, Kate and Henry Kisner

SERVING THIS WEEK

8:30 — Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Nancy Reed; Music - SonRise Choir; Organist - Christopher Nash

11:00 — Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Nancy Reed; Music Director - Catherine Stapleton Nance; Organist - Christopher Nash

Crucifer - Ford Vaughters; Acolytes - Kendall Leigh and Zane Leigh

December Worship Support - Keenan Kizer, Jean Geiger and Peg Robinson

UCAWQWEBWLMJRQEC OIVHDOUIGKGFHU
 YPOSFVDNLISHYENNZUOBRPKRAZUFLS
 TCRPJLKOQNSWLMPUQJALEIKUYTATVA
 HKZCNOCIHVNEONUEGZNAHWGPRSRQSH
 CPJXYPNQARLRMKUSERACPPDSYLYNOA
 MSERMYAZE EHBTEMSEKSV EGBSGBMDAU
 LIXSDRMEGLMEYTNBEGNJHWZDRZPRGD
 WBRXOCJNHFNOWFLBVKVNSDZWTSTNTAI
 PAEAMJANGOGYDRALOYRDIQNXWKKSJH
 WIVHCCGPVCMHTV IYINARZLXGTSJILC
 PKDRFLVIWSPNGZPFIOYLDZJGMANGER
 LTZUCIECGLFPJKSIAIMRFKSSIHIEKX
 QRYKETOSUPDXTIJEIQMVKMYRLBMNST
 YOTBZSZAALTGUSHQSYVQDRYRNBKOH
 FLIYBKEJGTMLIVMEJJKCURWAQLDKES
 OXVXTACWRCULJCTWIPDGP RNTNUNDEN
 NHIJQC COIJLBEXULCIH ZTZYSMCEVPW
 IATQZQIGTWJHGNDDPFIYIXPAMMAAPM
 KRAQPUTYISQQOQLRGHRXBNECVSJMHH
 IQNNLKDUJESUSMYRZTXXLITVMEKKEK
 OAQPLKTVLMMXBZCFVRBJSNLSFJZGLL
 SLSURTIMEMNALJCVPHMMRKIRXLKCZM
 PWZUFUCWRMCAFYLWBDIKFWXOIVJLFB
 JPGJMHQFRDXFPZVAFFIKTEATPCDGDZ
 GNNAHCDHPSECNUBUYAHLWWCEFIKMDG
 TFRQBZTXPEUHLTYVBT L FUDQWKPS PNU
 XYXFYRYOEPKZWAYEAYEK NODMAVNAVO
 FKHOILJPIJASYTNLDBDLCQGGPDHDSXA
 HLNBBQHKKCFYUVBPQIPEWBMNTRYIDI
 BEEZATJTYRVVBETHLEHEMLDVC GAKTC

Christ, the Saviour,
 is born!

- ANGEL
- BABY
- BETHLEHEM
- BIRTH
- CAMEL
- DONKEY
- INNKEEPER
- JESUS
- JOSEPH
- MANGER
- MARY
- MIRACLE
- NATIVITY
- SHEEP
- SHEPHERD
- STAR
- WISEMEN



Merry Christmas



*Psalm 9:02
I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praises to Your name,
O Most High.*

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Gathering

Greeting and Announcements

Please enter your name in the Friendship Pad and pass it down the row. If you are new to St. John's, please add your contact information. When the pad reaches the end of the row, pass it back so that we may learn each other's names.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Vikki and Brandon Woody

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Song of Praise

Forever

C. Tomlin

Affirmation of Faith

We Believe

Newsboys

Children's Sermon

Harry Sampson

Pastoral and Lord's Prayer

Offering*

Light of the World

L. Daigle

Reception of New Member

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Sermon

Put Together

Dr. Tim McClendon

Closing Song

Love Came Down at Christmas

E. Hamilton

Sending Forth

* You may text your gift to St. John's by texting **stjaiken** to 73256 and following the instructions