

FROM THE CORNER

The news of our life, growth, and discipleship

1207 Peabody Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 726-4104
www.stjohnsmidtown.org

St. John's United Methodist
Church - Midtown Memphis



@stjohnsmidtown

DECEMBER

13 SUNDAY– Honduras mission trip informational meeting in the Hospitality Room (after service)

13 SUNDAY– Candlelight prayer vigil for Insure Tennessee on the front steps of St. John's– pray for those in the coverage gap (5:00pm)

14 MONDAY– UMW Christmas social & potluck– To RSVP and obtain address/directions email Stephanie at stephanie.sonnenfelt@gmail.com. (6:00pm)

16 WEDNESDAY– Family Pajama Party in the Fellowship Hall (6:00-7:30pm)

20 SUNDAY– Church council meeting in room 205 (after service)

20 SUNDAY– Longest Night service in the chapel (5:00pm)

24 THURSDAY– Christmas Eve Service (5:00pm)

26 SERVICE SATURDAY– Soup Kitchen (3:30-5:30pm)

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Monday– Irvine Cherry, Mary Ann Sandidge
Wednesday– Bill Colton, Gary Hall, Patti Smith
Friday– Fred Smith, Missy Williams

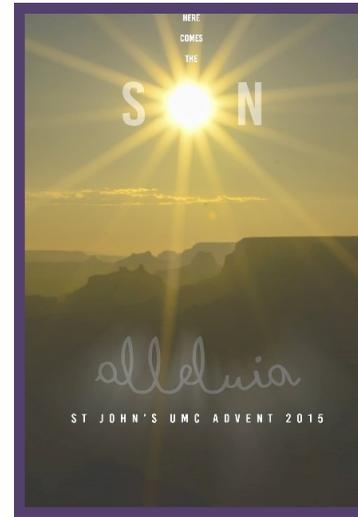
The monthly schedule is now on our website for volunteer convenience.
stjohnsmidtown.org>Outreach>Volunteer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Atrium needs new or used religious-themed (including Christmas) greeting cards for making prayer cards. Place donations in the basket outside Atrium 1.
- Join us during the weekdays at St. John's. Volunteer! Contact Kristen at kberning@stjohnsmidtown.org if you are interested.
 - Serve on the Hospitality Team on Thursdays or Fridays!
 - Sack groceries in the food pantry on Mondays!
- If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, refer to the insert in today's bulletin.
- Operation: Swaddling Clothes is in great need of diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6. Donations are truly appreciated.
- Give to the Food Pantry Christmas Store! Donate new or gently used items (toys, household gadgets, un-opened toiletries, etc.) or you may make a donation for items to be purchased. Our food pantry guests will choose items to be gifted to a family member or friend for Christmas. If you would like to volunteer in the Christmas store, please contact Emma (emartin@stjohnsmidtown.org).



This Friday at 6pm
John Kilzer leads us with
Sam Shoup, Heather
Trussell, Paul Taylor,
& Steve Potts



Advent graphic by:
Collins Dillard

St. John's welcomes everyone. Our hearts, minds, and doors are open to people of all ages, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, theological identities, economic status, disabilities, and sojourn on the way to recovery and wholeness. We are a diverse community whose discipleship to Jesus Christ is demonstrated through our deep commitment to servant ministry. Welcome Home!

TODAY'S USHERS:
Lloyd Hearn, Mike Coop,
Charles Garrison, Herb Levy

TODAY'S ACOLYTES:
Bradley Thomas,
Alex Carter

+ Please stand as you are able.

St. John's United Methodist Church

December 13, 2015
10:50 a.m.

“HERE COMES THE SON”

ADVENT 3 - Joy

THE ENTRANCE

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Ed Lojeski
(1989)

“Ding! Dong! Merrily on High”
Women's Chorale

+ Call to Worship

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid.
With joy you shall draw water from the wells of salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid.
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
I will trust, and will not be afraid.
Sing praises to the Lord, and let it be known throughout the earth!
I will trust, and will not be afraid
We come to worship God, in awe and wonder,
knowing God will lead us into the fullness of joy.

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

+ Processional Hymn—UMH 89

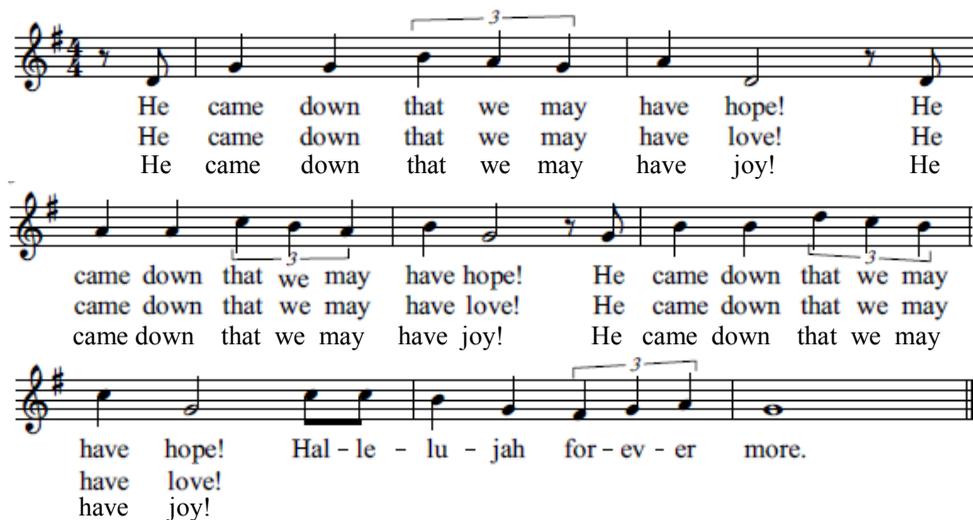
HYMN TO JOY

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

(During the final stanza children may come to the crèche.)

Time at the Crèche

Singing of God's Love



He came down that we may have hope! He
He came down that we may have love! He
He came down that we may have joy! He

came down that we may have hope! He came down that we may
came down that we may have love! He came down that we may
came down that we may have joy! He came down that we may

have hope! Hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er more.
have love!
have joy!

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope, Love, & Joy

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

(Light the third candle on the Advent wreath.)

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

WORSHIP & MINISTRY STAFF

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rev'd Johnny Jeffords | <i>Senior Minister</i> |
| Rev'd Renee Dillard | <i>Discipleship Ministries</i> |
| Rev'd G. Scott Morris | <i>Associate Minister</i> |
| Rev'd John Kilzer | <i>Recovery Ministries</i> |
| Matthew Bogart | <i>Music/Worship Ministries</i> |
| Zachary Ferguson | <i>Youth/Young Adult Ministries</i> |
| Lyn Stewart | <i>Church Administrator</i> |
| Emma Martin | <i>Office Manager</i> |
| Kristen Berning | <i>Office/Communications</i> |
| Bill Dozier | <i>Building & Maintenance</i> |
| Robert Phillips | <i>Custodian</i> |
| Rose Holmes | <i>Housekeeper</i> |

*For staff and contact information visit:
WWW.STJOHNSMIDTOWN.ORG*



THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Taking the Bread and Cup

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing Holy Sacrament

Prayer After Receiving

Come, Lord Jesus. Come into this world and break it open for Your love. Come into this world and remove the violence from our hearts. Take the weapons from our hands and open our arms to embrace one another. Take the malice from our hearts and replace it with Your unconditional, undying love. Take the fear from our minds and replace it with the assurance that Your presence is always with us. Remove the barriers that we have built up that keep us separated from one another. Come, Lord Jesus. Remind us that in You, we are one people, one body. Come, Lord Jesus. Remind us that in You all our hope is found. Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Journey

+ *Hymn of Response*—UMH 202

“People Look East”

BESANÇON

+ *Sending Forth to Serve*

+ *Benediction*

+ *Postlude*

Robin Dinda

“Helmsley”

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

Congregational Response



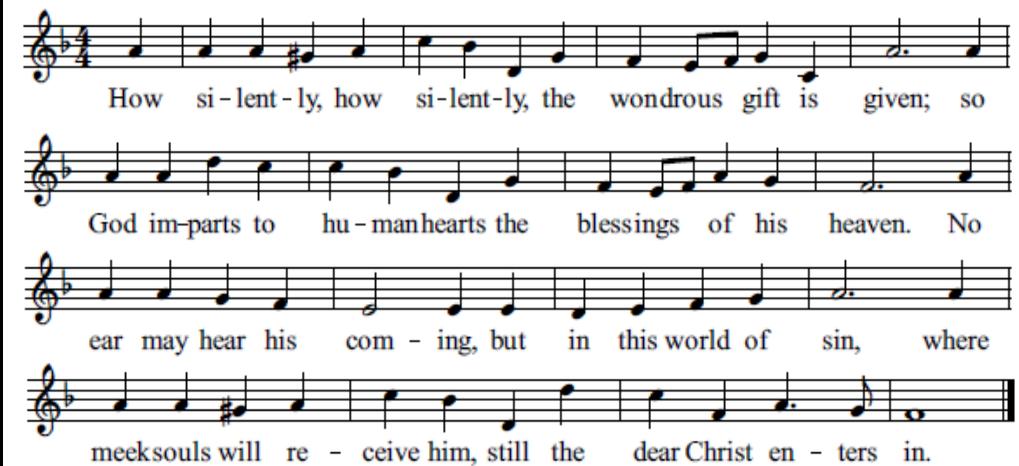
1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be-tween of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod,
Refrain
This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when
Christ-mas comes for ev-ery-one, ev-ery-one a - live!

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Moment for Missions: Zachary Ferguson

Joys and Concerns

Call To Prayer



How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the wondrous gift is given; so
God im-parts to hu - man hearts the blessings of his heaven. No
ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin, where
meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Rejoice in the Lord

*Rejoice in the Lord
always; and again
I say, Rejoice!*

*For the Lord our God is
gracious, and His mercy
is everlasting;
His truth endureth
forevermore.*

Prayers of the People

Anthem

Anonymous, 16th Century English
“Rejoice in the Lord”
Chancel Choir

+ *From the Gospels*: Luke 3:7-18—NRSV

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor;’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon

Rev’d Renee Dillard

“Brood of Vipers! Good News? Rejoice!”

Time of Reflection

“Here Comes the Son”

Invitation to Table

Prayer of Confession

God of Light, sometimes all we see is the smoke from the extinguished candle. Sometimes all we know is the fear of losing instead of the joy of loving. Sometimes all we believe are empty promises of long-lost dreams instead of the wonder and awe of trusting. You are doing something new. In this time of brokenness in our world, in this space of emptiness, in this realm of hopelessness: restore our faith. Renew our hope. Regain our trust in one another and in the goodness of Your love. Be born in us, again, and again, so that we might live into hope, build peace in this world, and rejoice that You are still ever present with us and will not let the world fall apart. You will not let us fail. Love will never end, but always prevails. Help us to cling to this: that what we know through You is good. You are love. You are light. In the name of Jesus the Christ, for whom all things are expectantly waiting. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Trust. Believe. Hope. Endure. Know. Forgive. Restore. Love. Above all, love. For what else is there that we can do? You are forgiven, when you set out to do right, to love justice and mercy, and to go forth humbly with God. Amen.

+ *The Peace*

Offertory

Kim Gannon & Walter Kent

“I’ll Be Home for Christmas”
Micah Pounds, Tenor

+ *Doxology*

ADESTE FIEDELES

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*