



CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT IVY

9150 East University Avenue. Altoona, IA 50009

Pastor Dani Musselman

Sunday, December 13, 2020



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MOMENT:

"The mystery of Christ is revealed whenever you are able to see the psychic and the physical coexisting, in any moment, in any event, and in any person. God's hope for history seems to be that humanity will one day be able to recognize its own dignity as the divine dwelling place, which it also shares with the rest of creation."

-Richard Rohr

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God is in our midst; do not fear.

God gathers us for this time of worship.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation!

God claims us and promises us a home.

Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.

With joyous shouts, we will proclaim God's glory!

We will not worry as we seek God's peace;

We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.

Amen.

HYMN: #2236 "Gather Us In" V. 1-2 & 4

Here in this place new light is streaming,

now is the darkness vanished away,

See in this space our fears and our dreamings,

brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us-in the lost and forsaken,

gather us-in the blind and the lame;

Call to us now, and we shall awaken,

We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry,

We are the old- who yearn for your face,

We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,

Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in-the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light-years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in- all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

One: As we light the third candle, we offer this time in honor of the shepherds whose love and care for their sheep became the example of God's love for us. We remember that the shepherds were the first witnesses of our Savior's birth. In honor of all good shepherds and, especially Jesus, we light this candle.

All: Dear God, our Shepherd– fill us with love, that in loving others we might bear witness to Your love for us. We rejoice that we are a part of Your family. Help us listen to the words of the prophets and be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN #2090 "LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE" V.3

Light the Advent candle, three:

Think of heavenly harmony;

Angels singing "Peace on earth"

At the blessed Savior's birth.

Candle, candle, burning bright,

Shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, candle burning bright,

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

PRAYER CONCERNS/LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the Glory forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

HYMN: #196 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

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.

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.

MESSAGE: Homecoming

OFFERING:

HYMN #240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing:

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 host proclaim, "Chris is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the ever-lasting Lord;

Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head 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!"

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

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SONG

#204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel."

With Love, Pastor Dani