



CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT IVY

9150 East University Avenue. Altoona, IA 50009

Pastor Dani Musselman

Sunday, December 20, 2020



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MOMENT:

“How receptive are we to the God who will not be confined or enshrined but retains and cherishes the freedom to surprise us—as in the coming of Christ down the back stairs of Bethlehem, to be born of Mary, grow up in the hick town of Nazareth, spend his time with the least, the lowly, and the lost, and most surprising of all, become ‘obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross’?”

Could that same God be leading the church in new and unthought-of directions?”

-Rev. Eugene C. Bay

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Behold! God is good, and has set a star in the heavens to guide us to the truth.

**We follow the star with joy,
knowing that God will give us strength.**

Behold! God is good, and has promised us a Savior to lead us to righteousness.

**We await the Savior’s coming
with gladness and with expectation.**

Behold! God is good, and has prepared a place among the animals.

**May our lives be renewed
by the holy birth.**

Behold! God is good, and we are in awe of what is to come.

**Enter our world once again, Holy Savior.
We rejoice & sing at Your arrival!**

HYMN: #2088 “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”(3X)

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I’m so glad you’re in my life;
I’m so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

One: We light the Advent candles in honor of the angels who told the good news to the shepherds, “Glory be to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.” For all the angels who continue to proclaim the good news of Christ’s joy and inclusion, we light this candle.

All: Dear God, you surround us with your angel of love so that we can love others. Thank you for the angels who teach us to love our neighbor and help us become angels of love for others. Amen.

HYMN #2090 “LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE” V.4

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 – Evan Fischer

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

HYMN: #218 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King.”

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,

And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;

Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,

And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,

Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,

Look now! For glad and golden hours comes swiftly on the wing.

O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,

When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold

When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,

And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

MESSAGE: A Tent for a Home

OFFERING:

HYMN #2092 “Like A Child”

Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,
Like a child and a friend, Jesus comes.

Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind,

Like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet,
Like a child on the street, Jesus comes.

Like a child we once knew coming back into view,
Like a child born anew, Jesus comes.

Like a child born to pray and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay, Jesus comes.

Like a child we receive all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe, Jesus comes.

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