

December 10, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



John 1:6-8, 19-28 | December 10, 2023



High Street United Methodist Church
219 S. High Street • Muncie, IN 47305 •
765-747-8500 • www.munciehighstreet.com •
info@munciehighstreet.com

WE GATHER

Announcements

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Storer Memorial Carillon

Prelude

A Home in Nazareth, by Louise Stairs

*Opening Hymns

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, (vv. 1, 3, 4)
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, (vv. 1, 2, 3)
O Come, All Ye Faithful, (vv. 1, 2, 3)

Hymn #203
Hymn #216
Hymn #234

*Call to Worship/Lighting of Advent Candles

Werner Family

Reader: These candles are a sign of the coming light of Christ, who is called the Son of the Most High,

All: and of whose kingdom there will be no end.

Reader: With John the Baptist we testify to Christ the light, so that all might believe through him.

All: We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Amen.

Choral Response to Lighting Advent Candles

Come Quickly, Lord Jesus (verse 3), by Mark Schweizer

Used with permission by St. James Music Press, license No. #22888

*Welcome & Greeting

*Passing of the Peace

WE PROCLAIM

Children's Moment

Children are invited forward to the chancel steps for a lesson with Pastor Mackenzie. After the children's moment, the children are invited to sit back with their families to enjoy the music of our Christmas Orchestra. Children's worship bags are available at each entrance.

Anthem

How Great Our Joy, by Craig Courtney

led by Spencer Domer, with by String Quartet

Prayer for Illumination

Doug Ferguson

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8; 19-28 (CEB)

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" John said, "I'm not." "Are you the prophet?" John answered, "No." They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself? John replied, "I am a voice crying out in the wilderness, Make the Lord's path straight, just as the prophet Isaiah said." Those sent by the Pharisees asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Our Spirit Waits: Our Fierce Joy"

*Indicates congregation to stand in body or spirit.

WE RESPOND

Prayer Concerns & Community Life

Prayer concerns & celebrations may be submitted to info@munciehighstreet.com, they will be prayed for by the prayer team & staff.

Choral Call to Prayer

Savior of the Nations, Come

led by Spencer Domer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, how many John the Baptists, how many prophets of your light, have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for? How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord." How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds, that we might also testify to your light. Amen

Words of Assurance

Leader: Beloved, hear this good news: God's love never fails, and is always at work to bring us back to God and one another.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! May God restore us to the joy of our common life now and always. Amen.

Brief Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn #895

Choral Response to Prayer

Call to the Giving Life

Offertory Anthem

Star in the East, arr. Brad Holmes
Spencer Domer, Marilyn Peña, Narasimha Sinkfield, John Washam

Choral Scholars

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(To tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – Hymn #211)

*Offertory Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE ARE SENT FORTH

*Closing Hymns

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, (vv. 1, 2)
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, (vv. 1,2)
Joy to the World, (vv. 1,2)

Hymn #211

Hymn #196

Hymn #246

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

Noel, Chant du Rene, by Alex. Guilmant

Jenny Donnelly, Organ

String Quartet:

Abby Crow
Audrey Crow
Jenny Donnelly
Leo Furlong

Worship Leaders

Rev. Teri Crouse, Lead Pastor

Pastor Mackenzie Phillips, Associate Pastor

Dr. Andrew Crow, Director of Music

Dr. Ann Hicks, Director of Handbells

Dr. Sally Kang, Organist

Joy Bricker, Children's & Family Ministries Director

Kyle Orr Youth Ministries Director

Joshua Bricker, Acolyte

Church Announcements

Announcements – Announcements may be submitted only at bit.ly/announcementsmunciehighstreet. They are to be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before Sunday service.

Poinsettia Donations – Today is the last day to contribute in appreciation, honor, or memory of a loved one. Suggested donation amount of \$15.00.

Caroling & Cocoa – December 17th at 3:00pm we will meet at the church to go out caroling to some of our members and then back for cocoa. This will be a fun time for everyone. Please let Joy know if you plan to attend.

Angel Tree Gift Drop-Off Deadline – Today is the final day to pick up tags in the Garden Court. December 17th is the deadline to drop off Angel Tree gifts to the church. Gift distribution will begin on December 18th.

Hat and Mitten Wreath – Today through December 31st bring in hats and mittens, both children and adults, to help individuals stay warm.

Alternate Gift to Food Pantry – December 17th is the last day to make a special contribution to the food pantry in honor of a loved one. See a mission team member in the Garden Court to make your contribution and receive your tag.

Christmas Eve Reception – Do you love to bake? We need treats for our reception. Drop off treats to share December 18th – 22nd in the office.

Sock Collection – The collection will continue through December 31st; bins are in the Narthex and outside the office for your donations of any size of socks.

Many ways to respond to God's love through giving –

--In-person, by placing offering in plates as ushers come through

--Text 765/222-5007

--Online: bit.ly/givinghighstreet (or scan the QR code below)

--Set up an automatic bank withdrawal through Diana (Church office)

--Drop off in person during church office hours.

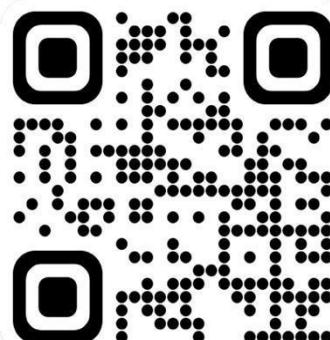
Youth & Children's Announcements

Children's Worship Bags – Worship Bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance. Find Ms. Joy for assistance.

Youth Group – Join us tonight, 6:00pm – 7:30pm for our Youth Group Christmas Party. We'll have food, fellowship, and festive Christmas-themed games. Feel free to invite your friends.

SNAPSHOT for Giving/Missions

Last's week Church Giving // Budgeted:	\$8,279.00 // \$8,462.00
Giving Total for 2023 // Budgeted	\$417,191.41 // \$440,000.00
December Giving Total // Budgeted:	\$8,279.00 // \$36,666.67
Monthly Mission Giving (Pantry)	\$526.00
Attendance for December 3, 2023	
In-person worship	140
Social Media views online:	106
Grand Total for Worship	246



Scan QR code to give.

Sunday Schedule

Coffee Bar	8:30am – 11:30am
Bethany Class (Adult Sunday School)	8:45am
Children's Sunday School	9:00am
Youth & College Sunday School	9:00am
Traditional Worship Service	10:00am
It's All About Jesus (Adult Sunday School)	11:15am
Youth Group	6:00pm

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Peas	Mashed Potatoes
Applesauce	Spaghetti Sauce
Jelly	Tomatoes (diced)
Rice (1# bag)	Vegetables (canned)
Soup (canned)	Soap (bar)
Baking Mix	Mac & Cheese (boxed)
Spaghetti	

