

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✝ July WestFed Food Pantry needs: Canned meat, baked beans, shampoo.
- ✝ Flowers are given this week:
- ♥ by Andy & Jayne Patton in memory of Jayne's parents, Betty & Bob Berning.
 - ♥ to the glory of God.
- ✝ **BLOC Ministries**—On Saturday, August 6, we are gathering upstairs at BLOC Coffee Company at 801 Mt Hope Ave, Cincinnati OH 45204, to learn more about this fantastic ministries and see how we might partner with them! The orientation starts at 9 a.m. Please see Wendy Beckman if you have questions!
- ✝ **Please plan to come to the Church Picnic on Aug. 12 from 4-9pm at the Riverview Shelter at Fernbank Park.** We will serving chicken from The Farm, so please use the sign-up sheet to let us know if you will be attending, or wish to bring a salad or desert. Also, feel free to invite a friend who might be looking for a new church home!
- ✝ Prayers are requested for:
- ♥ Wendy's former student, Nick, whose condition has worsened after a 12 year battle with cancer. Please pray for Nick's family, his doctors, and his comfort.
 - ♥ Sandy Morris, who had surgery recently.
 - ♥ Cynthia Hines, Sandy Morris' sister, and husband DJ, battling health issues.
 - ♥ Mike and Amy Babicke's 8 mo. old nephew Luke, who has Kawasaki disease.
 - ♥ Cathie DeFazio, who is dealing with a rare melanoma behind her right eye, and Larry DeFazio, who is healing from a torn right rotator cuff.
 - ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
 - ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
 - ♥ Our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
 - ♥ Our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
 - ♥ Our partnership with City Gosel Mission's Little Princesses Ballet.



OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP, JULY 24, 2022 **CHRISTMAS IN JULY** WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CINCINNATI, OH



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Welcome/Announcements

[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]

Congregational Prelude No. 41: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Solo Leaders: Noelle Scheper, soprano and Tommy Wessendarp, baritone

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: *[Refrain]*

Ringling of the Tower Bell

[Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

*** Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 9:2-7—Responsive)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We who walked in darkness have seen a great light; we who lived in a land of deep darkness, on us light has shined.

You have multiplied exultation; you have increased our joy;

We rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of our burden and the bar across our shoulders, the rod of our oppressor, you have broken.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Opening Prayer

* **Opening Hymn No. 2:** *“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 own sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

Invitation/Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. In Christ we pray. Amen.

A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness (*Based on John 3:16—Responsive*)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” We believe and although we fall short, we must persevere to the end, holding tight to His Word. Brothers and sister, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Christ—the Prince of Peace, now and forevermore—be with you!

And also with you!

* **Response: Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end, amen, amen.

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Christmas in July has become such a cultural staple each year that you may not have even thought about who first dreamed up such a cheery, potentially cheesy, midsummer celebration. Well, as it turns out, it started right here in the South. We can’t say we’re surprised though. Christmas in July started 84 years ago on July 24th and 25th in 1933 at a girls’ camp called Keystone Camp in Brevard, North Carolina. “I never thought it was unique to us,” Page Ives Lemel, the current director of Keystone Camp, said in an interview. “It seems like something other camps would do.” But not so. According to the camp’s 100th anniversary celebration book, the first time anyone celebrated “Christmas in July” was at Keystone, per the request of camp co-founder Fannie Holt. The first Christmas in July included carolers, a Christmas Tree, Santa Claus, presents, and fake snow made of cotton. As the tradition evolved, campers would use laundry bags as makeshift stockings, which they placed outside their cabins to be filled with candy overnight. Eventually elves, reindeer, and Mrs. Claus joined the act, along with a camp-wide gift exchange, counselors included. Lemel, who is the fourth generation in her family to hold the title of director, said the gifts were crafty and creative. “One time my dad got a bejeweled toilet plunger decorated with feathers and glitter,” she said in the interview. The tradition carries on today, and blistering-hot Southern summers have yet to stop the camp’s tradition—now they simply go for a dip in the lake post-presents.

~ Katherine Owens, Southern Living



Christmas in July at Keystone Camp, Brevard, NC

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **Closing Hymn No. 40 (vv. 1-2, 4):** “*Joy to the World*”

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us, our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “*From Heaven Above*”—arr. Wilbur Held

Mary Bramlage, guest organist

LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

Mary Bramlage, *Guest Organist*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Erin and Dayo Olakanmi, *Videographers*



Christmas in July

READING AND PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10—The Peaceful Kingdom*

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.



⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:1-20—The Birth of Jesus*



¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”



¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Sermon: “*Celebrating Christ(mas)*”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Stewardship

[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

All good gifts come from you, Gracious Lord, and from these riches we bring this offering. Accept, we pray, not just our gifts, but also our lives, offered in gratitude. Use them to further your kingdom here and everywhere. In Jesus' name. Amen.

[The congregation is invited to sing the offertory carols. You may remain seated.]

Offertory Carol No. 52 (vv. 1 & 3): “What Child Is This”

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come one and all to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Offertory Carol No. 60 (vv. 1-3): “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Offertory Carol No. 31 (vv. 1 & 3): “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing “Glory to the new-born 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 the us from the earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born king!”

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us—not into temptation—but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

