

Gary United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017    9:00 & 11:00 AM

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*Congregation reads bold print.*

*Congregational song books are the hard cover Hymnal and the smaller flexible book, The Faith We Sing, both found in the pew racks.*

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J. S. Bach

*(Wake up, a voice is calling)*

Mission and Ministry at Gary Church

\*The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Ostensen and Evans Family (9:00)

The Hall-Senn Family (11:00)

God of Salvation, break into our world with your great power and glory. Break the chains that bind us to sin. Shatter the systems of our world that promote injustice and oppression. We light the first Advent Candle as a sign of our hope that God’s Messiah is coming.

**May we stay alert for his coming that we might hear, with all of creation, the redemption song of our God.**

Come, Lord Jesus.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

720

*(Stanzas 1 and 2)*

*(9:00) During the hymn, children Preschool 3’s–Grade 5 are invited to come forward to proceed with their leaders to the lower level for Kids’ Church.*

*Children will return to the Sanctuary during the hymn prior to Communion.*

*(11:00) Children are invited to worship with their families during this service.*

*Children’s bulletins and activity bags are available from the ushers.*

*Childcare is available for newborn–2 yrs. from 8:45 a.m.–12 p.m. on the lower level.*

Opening Prayer

**Creator God, thank you for forming us in your image at the day of our creation, and for re-forming us anew each and every day. Help us be attentive to your presence. Open our ears to hear you. Open our eyes to see you. Speak to our hearts and shine in our lives, that your presence may shimmer in our lives and that your love may emanate from us, now and forevermore. Amen.**<sup>†</sup>

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 64:1–4

Pew Bible p. 623

*\*Mark 13:32–37*

p. 850

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn of Faith

Nothing Between

373

*(Stanzas 1, 2, and 4)*

Sermon

“Keep Awake”

Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson

Pastoral Prayer

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, for ever. Amen.**

Dedication of Our Tithes and Offerings

(9:00)

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring

J. S. Bach

Chancel Choir

arr. Bryceson Treharne

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright; drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned, striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying ‘round Thy throne. Through the way where hope is guiding, hark, what peaceful music rings; where the flock, in Thee confiding, drink of joy from deathless springs. Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure; theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure. Thou dost ever lead Thine own in the love of joys unknown. ~ British Poet Laureate, Robert Bridges*

(11:00)

Advent Carol

arr. Hal Hopson

Glory Ringers

based on VENI, EMMANUEL

\*Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

*(9:00) During the hymn, children Preschool 3’s–Grade 5 will return to the Sanctuary to join their families.*

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

**We confess to you, O God, that we have fallen asleep. We often go through the motions and live our daily lives without much thought outside of ourselves. Forgive us for our short-sightedness. Forgive us for not being awake to the wonders and signs that you are doing something new in our world, and in our lives. Help us to seek you in the face of others. Call us into your ways of love and justice, so that we might be fully awake, watching and waiting for your return in our world and in our lives in a new way. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving13

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Hymns

*The congregation is invited to sing the communion hymns or to meditate silently.*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

626

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

452

O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread

613

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

616

\*Hymn

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

203

*(Stanzas 1, 2, and 3)*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Besançon

Wayne Wold

*(People Look East)*

<sup>†</sup> Copyright 2016 by Mary J. Scifres. Used by permission.

Welcome Guests!

We are delighted you have joined us for worship. We invite you to complete the Welcome Card in the pew pocket and stop by the Welcome Desk on the main level outside the west Sanctuary entrance to receive a gift and more information about our ministries.

Hearing aid devices are available (including the neck loop for telecoil programs). Large print song sheets are also available. Please see an usher for assistance.

Next Week’s Lectionary Readings

We invite you to include the lectionary readings in your devotion times. Readings for next week are Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, and Mark 1:1-8.

Youth Ministries

**Gary Youth Serve Sunday:** Today from 3–4 p.m. at Brighton Gardens. Come connect with seniors as we play Bingo.

**Gary Youth Midweek:** Dec. 6 from 7–8:30 p.m. in the Activity Center. Middle and high schools students, join us to meet new friends and get plugged into Gary Youth ministries.

Opportunities at Gary Church

**The Lunch Group** will meet on Dec. 14 at 12 p.m. in Gary’s Commons. Pizza will be provided. Bring a dish to share. Cost: \$2 per person.

**Missed the UMW Christmas Market?** Stop by the Commons on Dec. 10 for a second chance to pick up handmade gift items with proceeds going to mission organizations.

**Camerata Chicago Academy Concert:** Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Cost: \$15. Age 16 and under free when accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets are available at the door or at <https://cameratachicago.ticketleap.com/20171216-academy/t/gumc/>.

Please Note

**Christmas Sharing Parking:** Volunteers on Dec. 8 and 9 are asked to park at Hultgren’s or Clare Woods Academy so that our guests may use the parking lot. Be sure to use the South Doors when entering the building as the West Doors will be locked.

**Styrofoam Recycling:** Dec. 31 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. in the south driveway. Save all the Styrofoam packing material from Christmas gifts and bring it to our Gary recycling team. Separate packing material and rinsed food containers. No peanuts please; take them to UPS.

**The Gift of Generosity:** We thank everyone who has supported Gary Church this past year and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings, or if you plan to make an additional gift this year, we encourage you to look into the electronic giving options through our website. If you have any questions, contact Dave Brewer through the Church Office.

**Stock Transfers:** If you're thinking about doing a stock transfer to Gary Church contact Dave Brewer through the Church Office. The transfer process is taking 7 to 10 business days and in order to count for this year's tax credits, the transfer has to be completed by Dec. 31.

Burning Bush Art Gallery—An Outreach of Gary Church

**Now Showing:** *Karma* through Dec. 17. This show features local artists, poets, and musicians. Artists’ Reception: Today from 1-4 p.m.

**Acorn Coffeehouse presents** the Bittersweet Christmas Band on Dec. 9 at 8 pm. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10. February Sky joins forces with Kate Early and Margaret Nelson for a show that presents every possible perspective on the holiday season, from the reverent to the ridiculous. Reservations encouraged at [acorncoffeehouse.com](http://acorncoffeehouse.com)

For more information visit [www.garychurch.org](http://www.garychurch.org) or the Chimes newsletter

Congregational Care

*Please remember these individuals and families in your prayers this week.*

Jan Adair, Richard Boyd, Meridith Brand, Charlie Castino, Jim & Carol Eaton, Anna Gorski, Barbara Heeley, Pat Hill, Judy Jay, Rod Irey, Ivan Kane, Mary Louise Lewis, Dan Meeks, Jeff Nankervis, Lenna Siens, Roger & Jan Sutfin, Jim Trieschmann, Jack & Shirley Williamson

**Christmas Wreaths** in the Sanctuary have been donated by Gary’s Boy Scout Troop 35. Thanks to the Gary Gardeners for decorating in the Sanctuary and throughout the church.

Serving Today

**9:00 a.m. Service**  
Greeters Dave, Leigh Ann, Carter & Faith Gaul, Chuck & Cubby Minauskas, John Wang, Michelle Sweeney & Eleanor Wang  
Welcome Desk: Mary Landreth, Cindy Plate, Michelle Younkin  
Acolytes Leah Austin  
Ushers Mark Klage, Mike Ashby, Arlene Gates, Norvis Land, Marge Merriman, Roger Sanstrom

**11:00 a.m. Service**  
Greeters Mike & Terri Kinney, George King, Scott Konetski  
Acolytes Grace Macabobby, Michael Macabobby  
Ushers Verne Bintz, Barbara Holmes, Kathy Oswalt, Neal Smith, Rob Whiting

**Musicians:** Dr. Lance J. Peeler (organ, piano), Jennifer Whiting (Chancel Choir), Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal (Glory Ringers), Anthony Quaranta (9:00 cantor), Rose King (11:00 cantor)

**Sound Technicians:** Kevin Carlson, Phil Johnson, Alyn Mann, Dave Mann, Tony Venezia

**Staff Ministry Team:** Rev. Dr. Chris Pierson, Rev. Brian Felker Jones, Rev. Bruce Anderson, Jennifer Whiting, Dr. Lance J. Peeler, Carey Bebar, Kim Austin, Alexa Isaac, Becky Lemna, Pam Keller, Shelley Bornstein, Rebecca Roell, Dave Brewer, Deb Hafner, Mike Capra

Mission Statement

**Grow** in faith, knowledge, and understanding of Christ as Lord and Savior  
**Serve** our community and the world by sharing time, gifts, talents  
**Nurture** one another through worship, fellowship, love  
**Demonstrate** our discipleship to Christ  
**Proclaim** God's grace and Good News

Gary United Methodist Church

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