



**Galena United Methodist Church**  
**December 12, 2021 10:30 am**  
**“How Much Is Enough (Joy)”**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Liturgist: Owen Holcomb & Luke Holcomb

Greeters: Holcomb Family

Pianist/Organist: Cody Clayton

\*Please stand as possible, body &/or Spirit

**We Gather in the Spirit**

**Prelude**

*Come, Emmanuel* W & S #3130 by Twila Paris

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**Welcoming and Announcements**

Pastor Catiana

**We Open the Door** (*Threshold Moment*)

**Gift of Music**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Galena Ecumenical Bell Choir

**Candle Lighting**

*“Joy Waits for Us at Advent”*

Original song by Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Joy waits for us at Advent  
Joy waits for us to sing.  
Joy waits for our amazement  
at the grace in everything.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where wonder is restored.  
Joy is born in us once more!**

Today we offer the Light of Joy to illumine the Door of Welcome.  
May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.  
May Joy awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.  
There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

**Joy waits for us at Advent  
Joy waits for us to sing.  
Joy waits for our amazement  
at the grace in everything.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where wonder is restored.  
Joy is born in us once more!**

**The Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

## Opening Hymn/Song

*"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH 213*

*Words: George Weissel, 17c/Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789*

- 1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
Behold the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.**
- 2. O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confest!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King of triumph comes!**
- 3. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.**
- 4. So come, my Sov'reign; enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on,  
Until the glorious crown be won.**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 12: 2-6 (CEB)*

*God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won't be afraid.  
Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my shield; he has become my salvation."  
You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.  
And you will say on that day: Thank the Lord; call on God's name;  
proclaim God's deeds among the peoples;  
declare that God's name is exalted.  
Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things;  
proclaim this throughout all the earth." Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion,  
because the holy one of Israel is great among you.*

## Hymn

*Prepare the Way, O Zion* Words by Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847) Adapted by Dennis Dewey/  
Tune: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Public Domain

- 1. Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, fore told in sacred story.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.**
- 2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, peace, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.**

## Second Reading

*Luke 3: 7-18 (CEB)*

*Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.'"*

*The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect." Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?" He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."*

*The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people. May God empower the Word in our hearing.*

### Hymn (continued)

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*      Words by Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847) Adapted by Dennis Dewey/  
Tune: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

- 3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.  
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.**

**Witness to the Word**

*How Much Is Enough?*

Pastor Catiana

## We Respond in Faith

### Prayers of the People

*[Sung]* **Make of my heart a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for [joy] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that created less joy in a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret...  
and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God...  
and out again with the Peace of Christ...

**[Sung] Make of my life a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for [joy] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit,  
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us breathe out our fear... *[pause to breathe out]*  
and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God... *[pause to breath in]*  
and out again, with the Peace of Christ... *[another breath out].*

**[Sung] Make of our church a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for [joy] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with  
the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.  
We remember and pray for...

... those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs;  
may abundance be shared.

... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope;  
may paths open and hope return.

... those who are suffering illness or injury;  
may healing abound.

.... those who are suffering loneliness and isolation;  
may companionship and solace arrive.

... those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence;  
may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us,  
reside within us,  
move outward from us,  
to meet the needs of the world,  
making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**Prayer of Jesus:** *Our God has many names. You are invited to address God in your native language or*  
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.**

FROM THE RITUAL OF THE FORMER METHODIST CHURCH

**Make of our church a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for [joy] to live and grow.**

## A Story of Innkeeping: Offering

Many imaginative tales have been spun about "The Inn" and the people who may have been involved in the story. As we've already said, we know very little about the circumstances from the Bible. Another theory is that it wasn't an inn at all but the downstairs of a house where the family animals were kept, under the top floor where the family lived. This scenario suggests that each and every home can be a birthing place for more goodness in this world. It suggests that this House of God, this church, might contain a surprising nook or cranny that could house a holy endeavor for bringing more joy to someone's life.

*Because of COVID we are not passing the offering plate but there are many ways you might support the ministries of this "INN of God" There is a wooden box at the back of the sanctuary provided for your giving or you may donate by mail or electronic giving through your bank. Together, we spread the gospel of peace and encourage cooperation locally, in the United States and globally.*

**Our "Change for the Better" throughout December is UMCOR DISASTER RESPONSE**

**Give to UMCOR – Where Most Needed**

**Compelled by Christ...**As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

(if added to your tithe check, please indicate amount of donation to ministry on MEMO)

**Through Advent, we are also fund raising for RIP Medical Debt Relief Program/Fundraising Campaign**

\$1 equals \$100 in Debt Relief for the poorest.

We are also **Dedicating CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS for our sanctuary.**

Suggested donation \$10 but any amount is a blessing. The funds collected will go to support the Heifer Project rather than purchase real poinsettias. We have poinsettias that can be used each year, freeing the funds for ministry. You may bring a poinsettia if preferred. Forms are available or mail, email or text to the church or Pastor Catiana

**\*Singing our Thanksgiving**

*Doxology (What Child Is This)*

**We bring our gifts to celebrate your gift of incarnation:**

**The Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, the Lord of all creation.**

**Praise, praise to you, O God and to your Son forever be;**

**Praise, Holy Spirit, praise the blessed Trinity.**

**...\*Prayer of Dedication**

To a world full of pain and broken relationships, we offer these gifts and the openness of our hearts, to be a compassionate community for all. Amen.

**We Go Forth in God's Spirit**

**Closing Carol**

Today's closing carol is "What Child is This" that invites "peasants and kings" to claim Christ as their own (the Glory to God hymnal changes this to "one and all"). Chatterton Dix was not a clergy person like most of the hymn writers of the 19th century. He was a businessman in England. He asks the question, "Why lies he in such mean estate," referring to the stable, and in the original second verse, answers by connecting the humble, wooden birth manger to the wood of the cross "borne" at his death:

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

True joy acknowledges the suffering of the world, and invites all people regardless of status to claim Christ's grace and joy as salve for the soul. May we offer warm laps and soft lullabies to sooth a hurting world.

*"What Child is This?" UMH 219*

Words: William Chatterton Dix, 1865/Music: "Greensleeves," 16th Century English melody

**1. 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.**

**2. Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise a song on high,  
The Virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

### **Benediction and Sending Forth**

May God's Door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.  
May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know.  
And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,  
making room in The Inn for all.  
May it be so for you. May it be so for us.  
May it be so for this church. Amen.

# Postlude

Cody Clayton, Pianist

*Angels from the Realm of Glory* UMH #220  
Words: James Montgomery, 1816/Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH #206  
by Kathleen Thomerson, 1966 ©1970, 1975 Celebration

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DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	COFFEE HOST
December 12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent	Holcomb Family	Holcomb Family
December 19	4 <sup>th</sup> Advent	Dickerson Family	Dickerson Family
December 24	Christmas Eve	Youth	

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



Use this form (or one in the Sanctuary) to **dedicate an artificial poinsettia** in honor or memory of a loved one. Your monetary gift will help purchase an animal or animals that will provide for those in need through the Heifer Project International. We've purchased a llama, an alpaca (\$150 each), a Heifer (\$500) and a water buffalo in the past. With a large animal order, we can fill in our order with a flock of chicks, ducks or geese; a hive of honeybees; a trio of rabbits; a pig; a sheep; or a goat. Dedications will be published in the bulletin on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup>.



Checks may be payable to Galena UMC with a memorandum of "Poinsettia UMCOR GIFT."

**Place completed forms with payment in the offering Box or by mail by Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total (Suggested donation \$10 per dedication BUT any amount accepted.): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE:

In Memory of... or  In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNSHINE BOX:** Items are replenished as needed by the youth and their families.

**Here are some ideas you may collect for the Sunshine Box:** *mouthwash, dental floss, razors, shaving cream, tooth paste, body wash, feminine products, baby wipes, body lotion face wash, granola bars, crackers, juice boxes, canned fruit, Clorox wipes, kitchen sponges, dish detergent, garbage bags, ziplock bags, glass cleaner.*



Dear Church Family,

As most of you know in years past we have partnered with First Community Bank to support less fortunate children and seniors and in our community. Once again, this year due to Covid 19 concerns the program has changed. We are not doing our small giving tree but if you are able to participate, you may drop off a donation at the bank or mail a donation to the bank. No donation is too small so any will be appreciated. Visa gift cards will be prepared for families with children. Or you can mail donations to me and I will send all donations together representing our church. First Community also donates a large amount of money to support this project. Hopefully next year will find us able to support in a more personal way. But in the meantime, the need for support is great in our community. Many thanks and blessings to you during this Christmas season.

Donna Wilmarth and Karen Hughes (Donna Wilmarth 312 Apache Ct. Galena, IL 61036)  
**First Community Bank % of Lavonne Ohms** P O Box 6006, Galena, IL 61036



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**Galena United Methodist Church**  
**Open Sanctuary hours: Friday & Sat 4-6 pm starting Dec 3 (5-6 pm on 18 th)**

Did you ever consider that YOU are a “House for the Holy?”  
That’s right. Your life your very being is a place where hope,  
peace, joy, and love are housed.

At Christmas, we remember that Jesus was born into a simple stable  
because there was no room in The Inn.  
So no matter how simple you believe yourself, or your home, or your life to be,  
you are a container for the Holy  
a place where Divine Light can shine into the dark corners of this world.  
You have a part to play in this pageant we call “ in this community.

You are sacred. You are worthy. You belong.

Please open on line, or pick up in the sanctuary, a little booklet of weekly devotions. They will open the doors of your heart, mind, and soul, and offer you hope, peace, joy, and love.

You can use it on your own, you can share it with your family.

You can read it all at once or spread it out over weeks.

The doors of our church are open the next 4 weeks at the hours below.  
Just come in and rest, get some peace, light a candle, or visit the meditation stations. That’s it.  
Someone will be present to be sure it is a safe space but you don’t have to talk to anyone if you  
prefer some solitude There will be a place where you can let us know if you need anything  
Prayers or assistance of any kind.

Our doors and our hearts are open. You are not alone.

**Galena United Methodist Church**  
**Open Sanctuary hours: Friday & Sat 4-6 pm starting Dec 3 (5-7 pm on 18 th)**

## **PRAYERS: Joys & Concerns**

Prayers for peace and reconciliation within our country and within our world; prayers for an awareness of the senseless violence and gun obsession in our country and prayers that we take action through common sense gun legislation and open hearts. Prayers for healing from the sins of racism. May our awareness turn into healing action. Prayers for pandemic awareness....vaccinations for the health and well being of all and what we do or don't do effects the health of others.

Prayers for the family & friends of former Lord of Love pastor, **Rev. Dennis Hill**. He passed away late Nov..  
**Ben Allen-Stewart** - Ben died peacefully with Patricia and Nick by his side. He had been ill for several weeks and did not respond to therapy. He had a reoccurrence of encephalitis which he had a few years ago. Please continue to hold Patricia and the family in your prayers .Patricia's address is 1008 Third St., Galena.

**Ben's Memorial Celebration will be on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 pm.**

**Karen Hughes' brother, Elmer John Phillips passed away mid-November. Hold the family in prayer**

**Janette Bader** is now recovering at home. Janette's address is 6481 N. Bowden Dr., Scales Mound, IL 61075

**Ginny Carroll has been diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. Prayers as she** continues her treatment in

Madison. Cards- 1399 S. Irish Hollow Road, Galena; Please keep **Jo Lieb** in your prayers-health- 2586 N.

Windy Lane, Galena; Prayers for **Julie Eggleston's grandson, Jonah and Brooke and her great grandchildren,**

**Jude and Lizbeth; Lonna's daughter-in-law, Cathy McDermott**, is undergoing Chemo treatment. Hold her &

the family in prayer; **Ingrid's brother, John**, died as a result if a car accident near St. Cloud. **His wife, Cora** is

recovering. Prayers for **the Muehleip family**; Prayers for **Ingrid's health concerns** and for **Darcy's friends,**

**Atron Regan**-prayers for remission and for **Debbie Furlong's family on her passing.**

**Dave & Judy's friend, Courtney Evenode**, last of family- prayers for job and home and son, Luke and daughter, Ella;

**Continue prayers for Mary Turner and the Turner family for the passing of Wayne, whose service was held**

**Monday, Oct. 11.;** **Beverly DeBord's brother, Donald Renner**, died the end of Sept.. Please remember the

**DeBord -Renner family** at this time;

**Pam McKinsey's mother, Ruth Eileen Henrichs**, passed away last month. Please keep Pam and her family in your prayers, and prayers for **Pam's sister, Melanie**;

**Annie Silaggi's mother, Alice Wyss from Monroe Wisconsin passed away recently. Prayers Appreciated.**

Continue prayers for **Carolyn and Tom Grey**. Address: Carolyn Grey 130 W 28th Ave. Spokane, WA 99203;

prayers for **Roberta Turner's great grandson, new-born, Khyson Turner**; **Judy's niece, Wendy** in prayer for

depression, **Judy's cousin, Dean & Dave's sister, Judy Lopez**, with extreme pain from osteoporosis and is

awaiting surgery and prayers for the **Biegon's friend, Nancy H.**

Hold **Charlene Price in prayer for healing** (compression-fracture) following a fall; prayers for **Elisa Skeeter,**

**her family and neighbors; hold Lonna and her daughter, Joni** in prayer for health concerns; **Betty Kabara's**

health; **Daniel Saben**, continued prayers; **Cheryl and Jim White**; Please hold **Sarah and Carter** in prayer as

Sarah continues her process of healing; Pray for **Sarah's brother, Bill**, who has cancer. Prayers for the

**Brotheridge family** as Michelle has passed away; **Larry Cook and his family; Curtis Cook, Larry's grandson;**

**Lisa and Terry Prindle.**

Continued prayers for all Immigrants; victims of gun violence & all experiencing PTSD; all responders to

tragedies in our country & around the world; prayers for the people of the United Methodist Church as we

find a new expression of more fully living into the grace-filled ministry of our faith; Prayers for peaceful

solutions to world issues that are too often addressed with violence; Prayers for the world and its leaders

facing difficult decisions every day. May decisions be made with wisdom and care for the benefit of all.

