

Pastoral Team

The Reverend Henry F Curtis, IV
Senior Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Floyd W. Alexander
Associate Pastor

The Reverend Julio A. Dixon
Local Elder

The Reverend Calvin D. Montgomery
Local Elder

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North Ohio Annual Conference

The Right Rev. Errenous E. McCloud, Jr.
Bishop

Mrs. Patricia Russell-McCloud
Episcopal Supervisor

.....

Cleveland District

The Reverend Dr. LaCreta M. Clark
Presiding Elder

.....

Church Office

Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday through Friday
Secretary: (216) 431-2560
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Senior Pastor: (216) 282-7721

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Email

stjohnamechurchclev@gmail.com

Website

<http://stjohnamechurchcle.org/>



December 11, 2022

The Third Sunday of Advent



ST. JOHN

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Established in 1830

2261 East 40th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

“We’re Better Together”

The Order of Worship

*The Introit

*The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Call to Worship

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:1-2)

People: **For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.** (Psalm 84:10)

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good. (Psalm 122:9)

People: **Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.** (Psalm 92:13)

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth. (Psalm 26:8)

People: **For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.** (Habakkuk 2:20)

Minister: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

People: **O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord; all the earth sing praises.** (Psalm 98:1, 4)

The Opening Prayer

The Choral Response

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy

*The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10 (RSV)

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus

² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*The Abridged Decalogue

From all that dwell below the skies, Let thy Creator's praise arise; Let thy Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

Minister: And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Nearer my God, to thee! Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me; Still all my song shall be. Nearer my God to thee, Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

Minister: Hear what Christ our Savior saith. Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments, hang all the law and the prophets.

*The Gloria Patri

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.

The Musical Selection

The Sermon

Pastor Henry F Curtis, IV

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Ministry of Giving (Givelify digital giving is on the link below).

- <https://www.givelify.com/givenow/1.0/NDA2NDY=/selection>
- You may also send your offering via US Mail to the church office.

*The Offertory Response

“All Things Come of Thee, O Lord”

All things come of Thee, O Lord; And of Thine own, have we given Thee. Amen.

The Announcements

*The Closing Song

*The Benediction

*The Three-Fold Amen

St. John at Work

Online Digital Campus

- Website: <http://stjohnamechurchcle.org/>
- Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/St-John-AME-Church-Cleveland-Rev-Henry-F-Curtis-IV-Pastor-106276354347644/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJn8D4TS5L-COJBjt6C0RaA>
- Conference Line: (267) 807-9659; Access Code:843047#
- Church School, Sunday at 8:45 a.m. in person and on phone.
- Bible Study, Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. via conference call line.

Thank You Note

- Thank you for the generosity and love shown to our family on the occasion of our Tenth Pastoral Anniversary and Birthday Observance.
- We are blessed to call St. John our “home.”
- Pastor Curtis and Family.

Midweek Prayer and Meditation (Virtual)

- Wednesday, December 14, 2022
- The premiere will air at 6:00 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook.
- Access video on our website: <http://stjohnamechurchcle.org/>.

GCMMA Advent Worship Service

- Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m.
- Community AME, 5805 Lexington Ave., Cleveland, 44103

Come Visit Santa

- Saturday, December 17th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Santa will be at St. John AME Church in the Fellowship Hall.
- Donations are being accepted, please see any choir member.
- Thanks to St. John’s Choir for sponsoring this event.

2023 Calendar Requests

- Please turn in all calendar requests for 2023 to Pastor Curtis by Sunday, December 18, 2022.
- Hard copies of the forms are available in the Overflow and digital versions are available electronically via email.

Christmas Day Worship

- Sunday, December 25, 2022, worship will be VIRTUAL ONLY via St. John’s Facebook and YouTube channels at 10:00 a.m.
- There will be no in-person gathering on Christmas Day.

St. John’s Social Action Ministry/GCC Core Team

- Monthly meeting: Thursday, December 15, 1:30 pm on Zoom.
- Wear your favorite holiday garb; bring your favorite holiday drinks and snacks!
- Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89879649102?pwd=RDZZMkdCL3pISEpYSIQwV2sxa3ITUT09>
- Join us! We have the holiday spirit!

GCC Dues Campaign

- We’re almost there! Pitch in now!
- Through our membership with GCC, St. John has expanded our capacity to advance our social action mission.
- We ask everyone to pay \$20.
- You can:
 - Use Givelify (there is a special tab for GCC), or
 - Put it in an offering envelope (note that it is for GCC).
 - Checks should be written to St. John with a memo to GCC. Thank you.

ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County

- Don’t suffer in silence. Call for help!
- 24 Hour Hotline: (216) 623-6888; Text “4HELP” to 741741

Notes
