

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

.....
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.
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December 4, 2022

The 2nd Sunday of Advent



Reflecting on the Coming of Christ
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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”

Psalm 133:1

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 Second Advent Candle: Peace

*The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12 (RSV)

¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan,

⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ Bear fruit that befits repentance,

⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

*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 Invitational Selection

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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person Only)

The Communion Hymn

“There is a Fountain”

There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins. And sinners plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains. Lose all their guilty stains. Lose all their guilty stains And sinners plunged beneath that flood; Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see, That fountain in his day. And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away. Wash all my sins away, Wash all my sins away. And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away.

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Thy divine majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Affirmation of Faith

“The Apostles' Creed”

Minister: Let us profess before God and one another our common faith.

Minister and People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. The third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, Amen.

St. John at Work

Online Digital Campus

- Website: <http://stjohnnamechurchcle.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

- Thanks so much for the love, support, prayers and sympathy you have shown to my mother, Lois Jean Gilbert during her joyful life here at St. John, during her illness and her homegoing celebration.
- May God continue to bless and keep you.
- From Sherry Stovall and family.

Prayer and Meditation (Virtual)

- Wednesday, December 7, 2022
- The premiere will air at 6:00 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook.
- Link to the video: <http://stjohnnamechurchcle.org/>

GCMMA Advent Worship Service

- Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Paul AME, 4118 Brookside Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44135

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 needed: money, \$5 McDonald's gift cards, apples, oranges, candy canes, candy and single wrapped cookies.
- Please see any choir member to donate. Thank you.

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 at the church's website: <http://stjohnamechurchcle.org/>

Christmas Day Worship Service

- 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.

Justice for Our Children – A GCC Public Hearing

- To End Abuse of Discretionary Youth Bindovers.
- Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
- Olivet Institutional Baptist Church or via Zoom
- Youth bindovers have negative impacts – on our youth and our whole community.
- Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/December>
- Zoom link opens at 6:30 pm; action begins at 7:00 pm sharp.
- Join GCC in publicly calling for the end to abusive discretionary youth bindovers.

GCC Dues Campaign

- Each year St. John renews our membership with GCC (Greater Cleveland Congregations) by paying our dues.
- Information will come soon - about what we (GCC and St. John) have accomplished over the past 11 years and what we are doing now.
- We ask everyone to pay \$20.
- You can use Givelify (there is a special tab) 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.

