

Thought for the Week

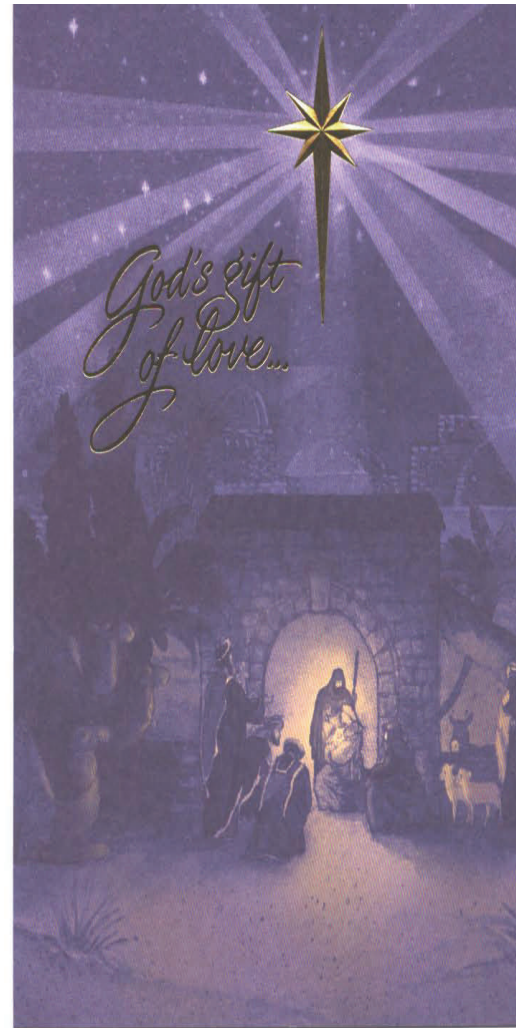
Over the last few weeks we have talked about just how we would tell the Christmas story using the words and images that we know to let others know what we believe happened on Christmas. Here is another wonderful example.

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!**

**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!**

**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 the song on high,
the Virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**



Taken from "O Holy Night" Timeless Meditation on Christmas
By A. Jean Leshner



December 20, 2009

Fairgreen Presbyterian Church
3220 Laskey Road
Toledo, Ohio 43613 419-475-4436
Email: fairgreen.church@sbcglobal.net
Webpage: fairgreenchurch.org

10:00 AM

Welcome
Visitors!

We are delighted to have you in our service this morning! Every Sunday, we are privileged to have people attending our church for the first time and we want you to feel welcome among us.

PLEASE SIGN THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK

found in the pews. We would like to know of your presence this morning.

PLEASE SHARE PRAYER JOYS/

CONCERNS on the Prayer card; they will be included in the Prayers of the People during the service, and added to the Prayer Chain.

A PERSONAL SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IS AVAILABLE. WORSHIP BULLETINS FOR CHILDREN are available.

Contact an usher for assistance.

SUNDAY SERMON

TAPES are available by contacting the church office.

If you are in need of **Pastoral Care** or know someone who is, please call Rev. Pat at the church (419-475-4436) or at her cell (419-215-2939).



Welcome to worship with the Fairgreen family! The * symbol means, "All who are able, please stand."



Fourth Sunday in Advent

SILENT REFLECTION ~ from Kneeling in Bethlehem by Ann Weems

Each year the Child is born again.

Each year some new heart finally hears, finally sees, finally knows love.

And in heaven there is great rejoicing!

There is a festival of stars!

There is a celebration among the angels!

For in the finding one lost sheep, the heart of the Shepherd is glad, and Christmas has happened once more.

The Child is born anew and one more knee is bowed!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign fellowship book found in pews.

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesse Murray

We come together in these dark days.

We must look to you now to light our mornings and our evenings.

We come seeking renewed joy.

We must look now to each other for our spirits to be improved.

We come carrying gifts along with the burdens of the year.

We now look within to bring tidings of great joy.

Special Announcements

Christmas Joy Offering ~ This year we will be receiving our Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday December 20 & Thursday, December 24th. There will be special envelopes placed in the bulletins for both of these services.

Year End Contributions And Outstanding Invoices ~ Any 2009 offerings to Fairgreen (operating budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than Monday, December 28, 2009, in order to be recorded as a 2009 contribution. All offerings received on this date, are considered to be for 2009, unless you specify on your envelope that it is for 2010. If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than Tuesday, December 29, 2009.

Per Capita Apportionment ~ The year 2010 per capita apportionment is \$27.16 per person. There will be a per capita giving envelope in the offering envelope packet that you will receive. We ask that you wait until after the first of the year to pay your per capita. Thank you.

Lectionary Bible Study ~ We will not be meeting the next two Thursdays in December. The dates are December 24, and 31. We will resume in January.

Elder/Deacon Retreat ~ We are asking that you set aside the following dates and times, Friday, January 8th (7pm) through Saturday, January 9th (5pm) to attend the Elder/Deacon Retreat at the Lial Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. It is important that all out-going, currently serving and incoming elders and deacons attend this planning event! Your confirmation needs to be called into Darlene in the church office, before Monday, January 4th. The cost is \$40 per person.

Installation and Ordination of Officers ~ Ordination and Installation of Officers, will take place during the worship service on Sunday, January 10, 2010.

Kroger Rewards ~ To register your Kroger Plus Card to benefit Fairgreen Deacons, please do one of the following: Go to the Customer Service Desk at the Kroger store, register on-line, or speak to Jan Anderson if you would like her assistance with on-line registration. Kroger will send a percentage of your grocery sales to the church on a quarterly basis.

Calendar for the Week of December 21-27, 2009

Monday, Dec. 21 ~ Adult Co-Ed Volleyball 7-9pm
Wednesday, Dec. 23 ~ Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30pm
Thursday, Dec. 24 ~ Church Office Open
Friday, Dec. 25 ~ Church Office Closed and No Food Pantry
Sunday, Dec. 27 ~ First Sunday after Christmas. A Service of Lesson and Carols

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:20-12:30AM

FOR ADULTS:

Adult Bible Study.....In Lounge
Faith Sharing Class.....In Library

FOR CHILDREN:

Nursery Room (birth – Preschool).....(available 9:45am-12:30pm).....Rm.105
Grades 1-8..... Downstairs
9th – 12th grade.....Downstairs Senior High Room

Join us for Coffee Hour after worship in the Commons.

Information for the Newsletter should be received by Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009.

Visit **THE CARD TABLE** in the narthex to sign or request cards to remember members of the Fairgreen family. Are you in need of prayer? The **FAIRGREEN PRAYER CHAIN** is here for you. Call Leone Sattler at 419-474-1723 or Darlene in the church office at 419-475-4436 or indicate that you have a request for the Prayer Chain on your Prayer card.

Number who worshiped with us on December 13, 2009: 80

TODAY'S USHERS: Mike Roadruck, Capt./ Barb Roadruck, Kay Amendola, Linda Hoover
 TODAY'S GREETERS: Agnes McKinstry & Chris Roebuck
 CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS: Web & Woody Cole
 CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIST: Julie Murray
 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTER'S: The Murray Family
 NEXT SUNDAY'S USHERS: Kay Amendola, Capt., Marilyn McAfee, Jackie Campbell, Richard Redd
 NEXT SUNDAY'S GREETER: Maud Pearson

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY ~ Tom Winslow, Emma Bosley-Smith, Aaron Winslow
 As we continue our journey into Advent we light again the earth, water and air .
 The fourth candle honors fire, the warmth of life that keeps us alive.
It honors the Star of Bethlehem, shinning on the Christ Child in the hay, and angel light that brings shepherds to the stable.
 It honors seaside fire on which Jesus will cook breakfast for his friends at Easter and the fire of love burning within their hearts for him, even in death.
May this candle waken in us a burning desire for the birth of the Christ Child in our hearts again this Christmas.

HYMN ~ #2090 "The Advent Song, Verse 4"

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH Rev. Pat and Pat Gibson

HYMN ~ #41 " O Come, All Ye Faithful"

KID'S FOR CHRIST ~ The children that are in Preschool through second grade are dismissed to go with their teacher to their class which will be held in room 110.

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Pat

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of star and sign, lead us into the depths of mystery. Guide us in the way of forgiveness and place in us songs of joy.

God of the journey and God of this holy place, walk with us in times of trouble, hold us when we tremble and cry, and be with us when we face our darkness. Dwell with us in the holiness of this moment. In the name of the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION
ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Pat
RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Please remain seated) "The Gloria Patri" (#579)

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Kayla Gotha
FIRST READING **Isaiah 9: 2-7** pg.1072 (OT) in the pew Bible

SECOND READING **Matthew 1: 18-25** Rev. Pat
SOLO Anne Rubley

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO GOD

***HYMN**

"The Friendly Beast"

**THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS
CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
INVITATION**

When Jesus sat at the table and enjoyed communion with the tax collectors and sinners he proclaimed that God's care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share God's table, and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a joyful thing always and everywhere to give you thanks, gracious God. You, Mighty One, have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Your mercy is for those who honor you from generation to generation. Throughout history you have helped your people in remembrance of your mercy, according to the promises you made to our ancestors.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

Mary, pregnant with the child Jesus, proclaimed God's glory: God has shown strength with his arm, and scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

Look favorably on us, Mighty One, and through your child Jesus Christ redeem us. Fill us and this meal with your Holy Spirit, that we might dwell in your mercy and follow in your ways. Through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Holy God, now and forever.

Amen.

And now, as your daughters and sons whom you have called by name and reconciled to yourself, we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

(You are invited to come forward using the center aisle; place your gifts to God in the Offering Plate; step to the left or the right and take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup to receive the gifts of God; return using the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward stay where you are and we will come to you.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***HYMN #2095**

"Star Child"

***CHARGE AND BENEDICATION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ~ #2260 "Let Us Be Bread"**

**Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord,
Broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us be wine, love freely poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.**

+++++

A special thank you to all the young and young-at-heart members of the congregation who helped lead worship and interpret the Word of God today.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7 pm Join us as we experience the Christmas Story once again in word and in song and in celebration of the Light of the World.

Next Week ~ First Sunday of Christmas; Charlene Ravenscraft will lead the congregation through a celebration of lessons and carols. Come prepared to participate and to sing your favorite Christmas Carol!