

**Christmas demands faith,
because Christmas is a mystery.
Our reason cannot succeed in trying to understand
how God could possibly have loved
us to such a degree.
The shepherds are given a sign.
They will find him in a manger.
There the infant Jesus has been placed,
a sign of extreme poverty and of God's
supreme humility.
Such a thing baffles the intellect.
It teaches us that to welcome the message
of Christ, the divine Redeemer,
reason must be laid aside.
Only humility, which melts into trust and adoration,
can comprehend and welcome God's saving humility.**

—Pope John Paul II in *Draw Near to God*

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 19, 2010

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

10:00 AM



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



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 her cell (419-215-2939).

Fourth Sunday of Advent

SILENT REFLECTION

Tender Christ, in this sacred meantime, guard our hearts and prepare our minds, so that we may wait creatively, not distracted by the obligations of the season, nor unready by sloth. Prepare us, that at your coming we may recognize you and rejoice in your appearing. Grant us the courage to pray as people who believe in your appearing.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign fellowship book found in pews.

GREETINGS

This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHORAL INTROIT

Geneva Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kayla Gotha, Liturgist

Come let us worship the God who invites us to enter this space we call Advent—a space of mindfulness where the life of the Spirit touches us at the point of deepest meaning and mystery.

God surrounds all our endeavors and embraces our longings. May we catch the vision: God is coming; truth, justice and compassion are coming into our world. The God of love is with us now.

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

The Youth

First Reader: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love.

Lectionary Bible Study and Potluck ~ There will be No Potluck or Lectionary Bible Study for the rest of 2010. We will start back in January 2011.

Per Capita Apportionment ~ The year 2011 per capita apportionment is \$27.58 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!

Year End Contributions And Outstanding Invoices ~ Any 2010 offerings to Fairgreen (operating budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than Thursday, December 30, 2010, in order to be recorded as a 2010 contribution. All offerings received on this date, are considered to be for 2010, unless you specify on your envelope that it is for 2011. If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than Wednesday, December 29, 2010.

Christmas Joy Offering ~ This year we will be receiving our Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 19 & Friday, December 24th. There will be special envelopes placed in the bulletins for both of these services.

Elder/Deacon Retreat ~ We are asking that you set aside the following dates and times, Friday, January 7th (7pm) through Saturday, January 8th (5pm) to attend the Elder/Deacon Retreat at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, 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 3rd. The cost is \$35 per person. This includes your breakfast and lunch, a private room, bedding and towels will be provided. If you wish to travel in the church van, please let Darlene know ASAP as there is only space for 12. We will leave the church at 5PM.

Installation and Ordination of Officers ~ Ordination and Installation of Officers, will take place during the worship service on Sunday, January 9, 2011.

2011 Offering Envelopes ~ The giving envelopes for 2011 are ready to be picked up in the narthex on the table in front of the name tags board.

Living the Questions Class ~ This class will start back up on Wednesday, December 29th from 6-7:30pm in the church lounge.

Sacrament of Baptism~ This will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, January 2nd. If you would like to be baptized or if you would like to present a child to receive the sacrament, please speak to Rev. Pat as soon as possible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:30-12:30pm

FOR ADULTS:

No Early Bible Study—9 amIn Lounge
Bible Study—11:30.....In Lounge
Faith Sharing Class.....In Library

OR CHILDREN:

Nursery Room (birth – Preschool).....(available 9:45am-12:30pm).....Rm.105
Kindergarten (4yrs. Old).....Rm 104
Grades 1-8..... Downstairs
9th – 12th grade.....Downstairs Senior High Room

Join us for Coffee Hour after worship in the Commons.

Wishing Erika Dunn a very Happy Birthday today. Her name was omitted off the December birthday calendar.

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 Darlene in the church office at 419-475-4436 or Woody Cole at 419-833-1394 or indicate that you have a request for the Prayer Chain on your Prayer card.

Number who worshiped with us on December 12, 2010: 77

TODAY'S USHERS: Fred King, Capt./ Bill Henning, Michael & William Henning
TODAY'S GREETERS: Ken & Nan Bennett
TODAY'S LITURGIST: Kayla Gotha
ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: The Youth
TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Kay Amendola & Linda Hoover
CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS: 5PM~ Bonnie Buehrer, Capt./
7PM~ Dan Yeager, Capt./ John MacPherson, Jesse & Joe Murray
NEXT SUNDAY'S USHERS: Kay Amendola, Capt./ Mike & Barb Roadruck, Sharon Durrant
NEXT SUNDAY'S GREETER: Lynn Harris
NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGIST: Bill Henning
NEXT SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Dan Yeager & John MacPherson

Special Announcements

Mid-Week Advent Worship ~ Join us for our Mid-Week Advent Worship service followed by a Cookie Fellowship on Wednesday, December 22. We will finish up exploring a "Christmas Gift that won't break."

Second Reader: With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story.

First Reader: There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

All: **Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

***HYMN OF THE SEASON ~** (all 4 verses) "Come ,Lord Jesus, We are Waiting"

***CALL TO CONFESSION** Rev. Pat

***LITANY OF CONFESSION**

Holy and Loving God, we come to worship today full of excitement and anticipation. It is almost time to celebrate the birth of your child, Jesus.

Sometimes we get so excited about the gifts we want that we don't see the gifts we have. Help us to see the love all around us in family and friends.

Help us to understand the special love that came into the world in the birth of Jesus.

Sometimes we're so busy thinking about the gifts we hope to get that we forget that we ourselves are gifts that are meant to be shared with others around us.

We are sorry that we so easily forget what Christmas is for.

Slow us down and turn us in the right direction so that we are ready to be surprised and amazed at the birth of your child, Jesus— Emmanuel, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One fact remains unchanging—God has loved us, is loving us, and will always love us. That's the good news that brings us new life.

We are forgiven people. Thanks be to God.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE** "The Gloria Patri" (#579)

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH Rev. Pat

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 blue room #104.

THE WORD OF GOD

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
FIRST READING ~**

Romans 1: 1-7

Kayla Gotha
pg.1690(NT) in the pew Bible

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Breath of Heaven"

Michelle Davis

**SECOND READING
SERMON**

**Isaiah 11: 1-10
"Strong Roots—New Shoots"**

pg.1076(OT) in the pew Bible
Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

OUR RESPONSE

***HYMN ~ #31**

"Hark! The Herald Angel Sing"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~**

This we believe... As we watch, as we wait, as we prepare our hearts and our homes,
God is unfolding yet another new moment—an hour of blessing, a time of healing, a day of beauty, a moment of joy.

It is the gift of divine presence offered to us, filled with ordinary moments made holy as we pay attention to -

**The ripples of hope;
The whispers of peace;
The unexpected moments of joy;
The tremors of love.**

This we believe... as we watch, as we wait, as e prepare our hearts and our homes,
God has prepared, is preparing and will continue to let this time of love unfold. Amen.

**PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD
OFFERING AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
OFFERTORY**

Kayla Gotha

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)
Pinning Our Hopes on Jesus**

We Go Forth into the World

***HYMN OF ANTICIPATION ~ #41**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***CHARGE AND BENEDICATION**

Rev. Pat

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ~ "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me:
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

**Next Week ~ No Adult Sunday School at 9am; First Sunday After Christmas Service at 10:00am; Mary Beth Henning will be preaching; Geneva Choir to sing.
Texts: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23**

Calendar for the Week of December 20—26, 2010

**Monday, Dec. 20 ~ Preschool Christmas Program in Commons
No Adult Volleyball**

Tuesday, Dec. 21 ~ Preschool Christmas Program in Commons

**Wednesday, Dec. 22 ~ Staff Meeting at 10:30am in lounge
Mid-Week Advent service & cookie fellowship 7pm**

**Thursday, Dec. 23 ~ No Potluck lunch or Lectionary Bible Study
Choir practice at 6:30pm**

**Friday, Dec. 24 ~ Family Christmas Service at 5pm
Traditional Christmas Service 7pm with Candlelight and Communion served.**

Saturday, Dec. 25 ~ Merry Christmas to you all!

Sunday, Dec. 26 ~ No Adult Sunday School at 9am; First Sunday after Christmas Worship service 10:00am; Mary Beth Henning will be preaching; Geneva Choir to sing