

An Advent Affirmation of Faith  
For those who wonder and wait

When the cold white ice of winter grips me,  
when the white shimmering heat of summer melts me,  
and I doubt that anything can survive  
the extreme of this world's harshness,  
I still believe.

Somewhere in the depths of my soul,  
despite the evidence, I believe.

I believe that the tears I shed will water seeds of joy  
deeply buried.

I believe that the green shoots of God's justice will bear  
fruit.

I believe that the light that enlightens the world  
will pierce the winter's longest night  
and eclipse the sun's brightest moments.

I believe that in all circumstances the Light  
radiates hope and joy, peace and love,  
so that even in my darkest moments  
I can see.

Even in the palest light of faith,  
I can find my way through the shadows.  
And for that I give thanks.

## *Third Sunday of Advent*



*December 11, 2011*

*Fairgreen Presbyterian Church*  
*3220 Laskey Road*  
*Toledo, Ohio 43613 419-475-4436*  
Email: [fairgreen.church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fairgreen.church@sbcglobal.net)  
Webpage: [fairgreenchurch.org](http://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 home (419-534-3739) or her cell (419-215-2939).



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



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**"The Lord is my light and my salvation—Whom shall I fear?"** (Psalm 27:1)

**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**

**OPENING SET ~ #2088 "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"**

**#2165 "Cry Of My Heart"**

**#2218 "You Are Mine"**

**PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE ~ #2272**

"Holy Ground"

**ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING ~**

Mark & Luke James

First Reader: Joy to the world.

**All: This, then, is the culmination of our years of waiting.**

Second Reader: We have lit the candles of hope and peace. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

**All: Joy to the earth the savior reigns.**

First Reader: Let us our songs employ.

**All: Let us sing to the glory of God.**

Second Reader: Let us sing in the name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair.

**All: Peace in the chaos of life,**

**Mid-Week Advent Worship** ~ Join us for our Mid-Week Advent Worship service followed by a Cookie Fellowship on the following Wednesdays at 7pm: December 14, and 21.

**Congregational Meeting Scheduled ~ Today**, Sunday, December 11th after the worship service, we will conduct a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons and for approving Rev. Pat's 2012 Salary Package.

**Christmas Eve Services** ~

**5:00PM ~ Family Christmas Service**

**7:00PM ~ Candlelight Service with Communion**

**Christmas Morning Service** ~ **10 am**—This will be a time of singing and telling the story of the Presentation in the Temple—Luke 2: 21-40

**2012 Offering Envelopes** ~ The giving envelopes for 2012 will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 18, 2011 in the narthex on the table in front of the name tags board.

**Christmas Joy Offering** ~ This year we will be receiving our Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday December 18, and Saturday, December 24 and Sunday December 25th. There will be special envelopes placed in the bulletins for all of these services.

**Per Capita Apportionment** ~ The year 2012 per capita apportionment is \$27.71 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 2011 offerings to Fairgreen (operating budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than Thursday, December 29, 2011, in order to be recorded as a 2011 contribution. All offerings received on this date, are considered to be for 2011, unless you specify on your envelope that it is for 2012. If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than Wednesday, December 28, 2011.

**Thought for the Day** ~ ***The promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion ... an invasion of holiness.*** (Frederick Buechner, *Listening to Your Life*)

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:30am-12:30pm**

**FOR ADULTS:**  
Faith Sharing Class.....In Library

**FOR CHILDREN:**  
Nursery Room (birth – 3 yrs. old).....(available 9:45am-11:30pm).....Rm.105

**Join us for Coffee Hour after worship in the Commons.**

*The January/February Newsletter will be published on Tuesday January 10th.  
If you have an article(s) that you would like included in this addition of the  
Leaves please have it in the office no later than Sunday, January 8, 2012.*

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 4, 2011: 75**

TODAY'S USHERS: Co-Captains: Linda Hoover & Joyce Koback, Dolores Tippin,  
Kay Amendola

TODAY'S GREETER: Louise Hughes

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Tim & Toby Eichenauer

NEXT SUNDAY'S USHERS: Co-Captains: Judy Stuart & Sharon Durrant, Kim Jensen,  
Tammy O'Dwyer

NEXT SUNDAY'S GREETER: Gina Beauregard

NEXT SUNDAY'S ADVENT WREAT LIGHTING: Tom Winslow

NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGIST: Emma Bosley-Smith

NEXT SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Ken & Nan Bennett

**Special Announcements**

**Lectionary Bible Study and Potluck ~** There will be No Potluck or Lectionary Bible Study until January 26th, 2012.

**Church Office Closed ~** The church office will be closed for Christmas on Monday, December 26th and for New Years on Monday, January 2nd.

First Reader: God's love...graciously, silently, vulnerably offered.

**All: And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**  
(lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.)

**\*HYMN OF THE SEASON ~ #2095** "Star Child"

**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** **Psalm 62: 5-8** pg. 898 (OT) in the pew Bible

**ANTHEM** **"I Will Rise"** The Praise Band

**SECOND READING** **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 and/or John 1: 6-8, 19-28**  
pg. 1157(OT) & 1646 (NT) in the pew Bible

**SERMON** **"Joy for the Light"** Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

**OUR RESPONSE**

**\*HYMN ~ #2091** "The King of Glory Comes"

**THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from the east and the west, and from the north and the south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

**According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.**

This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

**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.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Blessing of the Bread and the Cup**

**The 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.)*

**The Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**We Go Forth into the World**

**\*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.**

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**Next Week ~ 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:00am; Gary Herren will play; Receiving of the Christmas Joy Offering**

**Texts: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

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**Calendar for the Week of December 12—18, 2011**

- Monday, Dec. 12 ~** New Beginnings Conveners Meeting at 6:30pm  
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball 7-9pm in Commons
- Wednesday, Dec. 14 ~** Staff Meeting at 10:30am in lounge  
Mid-Week Advent service & cookie fellowship 7pm  
Children's Star Program  
Choir practice at 8pm
- Thursday, Dec. 15 ~** Rev. Pat on vacation December 15-17  
No Potluck or Lectionary Bible Study
- Friday, Dec. 16 ~** Food Pantry 10-12pm
- Sunday, Dec. 18 ~** 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:00am; Gary Herren ; Christmas Joy Offering; Confirmation Class from 11:30am -12:45pm