

An Advent Prayer...

**“Forgive us, God,
when we live our lives
within the lines,
when we say
this is the shape of our
work
this is the boundary of our
habitation
these are the limits to our
love
these are the lives of our
vision
these, and none other.**

**Draw us beyond our patterns
into yours:
shifting, moving,
curving, spiraling,
many-colored, ever-changing,
stretching, pushing,
challenging, renaming,
unsettling, disturbing,
casting forth,
and welcoming home.**

From “Night Vision” by Jan Richardson

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 18, 2011

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 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."



Fourth Sunday of Advent

SILENT REFLECTION

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

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT ~#9

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Emma Bosley-Smith, Liturgist

O God, at this time each year, we remind ourselves that you have come and continue coming into our lives.

You shatter reasoned expectations, give wonder and awe, and fulfill promises little understood.

Watching and waiting, we gather to worship you again this day, praying that you hasten the day of your second advent.

Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING ~ Tom Winslow and Mark James

First Reader: God is making the final preparation for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, the source of our joy.

All: We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

Second Reader: We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

All: We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of joy.

First Reader: At first there was the frail light of a single candle

Practice times for the Geneva Choir and the Praise Band~

Geneva Choir ~ 8pm on Wednesday, December 21

10:30am on Friday, December 23

Praise Band ~ Noon on Friday, December 23

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.

Elder/Deacon Retreat ~ We are asking that you set aside the following dates and times, Friday, January 6th (7pm) through Saturday, January 7th (5pm) to attend the Elder/Deacon Retreat at the Lial Renewal 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 2nd. 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 8, 2012

2012 Offering Envelopes ~ The giving envelopes for 2012 are ready to be picked up in the narthex on the table in front of the name tags board.

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

Scrip Information ~ The last day to order scrip will be today, Sunday December 18th. There will be no one available at the Welcome Center on Sunday, December 25th and January 1st. If you need last minute Christmas gifts you can still place your orders with Joyce Koback today. Don't delay!

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:20AM-12:30PM

FOR ADULTS:

Faith Sharing Class.....In Library

FOR CHILDREN:

Nursery Room (birth – 3 yr. olds).....(available 9:45am-12:30pm).....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 11, 2011: 67

TODAY'S USHERS: Co-Captains: Judy Stuart & Sharon Durrant, Jeff Buehrer,
Tammy O'Dwyer

TODAY'S GREETER: Gina Beauregard

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Ken & Nan Bennett

CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS:

5:00 pm Service: Co-Captains: Bonnie Buehrer & Dick Schroeder, Cindy Bosley-Smith,
Shannon Buehrer-Benge

Greeter:

7:00pm Service: Co-Captains: John MacPherson & Dan Yeager, Bill Henning &
Mary Beth Henning

Liturgist: Mary Beth Henning

Greeter: Marilyn McAfee

CHRISTMAS DAY USHERS: Co-Captains: Barb Roadruck, Cindy Kerr

CHRISTMAS DAY GREETER: Alberta Bailey

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Michael & William Henning

Special Announcements

Susie Whitcomb and Gary Herren will be in the Commons during the Coffee Hour following today's service. The selection "Still, Still, Still" is on Gary's latest recording that he and Susie were blessed to record together. Come over to meet Susie and talk with her and Gary.

of hope, daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin.

All: Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.

Second Reader: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

All: For God so loved the world...

First Reader: For God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior was made in the form of Love Incarnate. And Love was allowed to live on.

All: We gather, then, in Christian Love:

Second Reader: We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE SEASON ~ #2095**

"Star Child"

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Pat

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We sing, "O come all ye faithful," God, but we confess that we are not always faithful. We could have shown love this past week, but we kept ourselves busy with other things. We spoke without thinking and hurt someone. We treated the gifts and greetings and meals as chores, leaving out the most important ingredient—caring. We are sorry. Please forgive us, and accept our worship.

Amid the bright colors that surround us this season—the red, the green, the gold—send the light of your Christ, that all that is good may be revealed more clearly and all that is wrong may be exposed and changed.

We pray in the name of Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, who lived and died for our sakes, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Pat

***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 the blue room #104.

THE WORD OF GOD

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
FIRST READING**

Psalm 146: 1-5

Emma Bosley-Smith
pg.980 (OT) in the pew Bible

ANTHEM "Still, Still, Still" (Traditional Austrian Carol)

Gary Herren & Susie Whitcomb

**SECOND READING
SERMON**

Luke 1: 26-38
"Called to be God Bearer"
Theotokos—Greek for "the God Bearer"

pg.1588 (NT) in the pew Bible
Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

OUR RESPONSE

***HYMN ~ #2**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. With believers in every time and place. We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO OFFERING

OFFERING ~ Receiving of the Regular Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering

OFFERTORY ~ Special Music "Angels We Have Heard On High" (French Carol Melody)
Gary Herren & Susie Whitcomb

***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.**

OLD HUNDREDDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Emma Bosley-Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

**Next Week ~ Christmas Day Service at 10:00am; No Kids for Christ
Texts: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4; Luke 2: 21-40**

Calendar for the Week of December 19—25, 2011

- Monday, Dec. 19 ~** Preschool Christmas Program in the Commons
No Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
Alpha Omega Circle at 2pm in the lounge
- Tuesday, Dec. 20 ~** Preschool Christmas Program in the Commons & Last Day of School until January 3, 2012
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 ~** Staff Meeting at 10:30am in lounge
Mid-Week Advent service & cookie fellowship 7pm
Children's Star Program
- Thursday, Dec. 22 ~** No Potluck or Lectionary Bible Study
Choir practice at 6:30pm
- Friday, Dec. 23 ~** No Food Pantry
- Saturday, Dec. 24 ~** Christmas Eve Services
5:00pm ~ Family Christmas Service
7:00pm ~ Candlelight Service with Communion
- Sunday, Dec. 25 ~** Christmas Day Service 10:00am; Lessons and Carols; No Kids for Christ