

Winter Teaches Me

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Winter teaches me patience:
Walk carefully on icy sidewalks.
Drive slower through snarled traffic.
Take more time to put on layers of clothes.
Wait for streets to be cleared of snow.
Be understanding about mail arriving late.

Winter strengthens my courage:
Go out into windy, freezing air.
Risk traveling on snowy roads.
Dress warmly and go for a walk.
Ski through woods, alone and free.
Be at peace in long days of darkness.

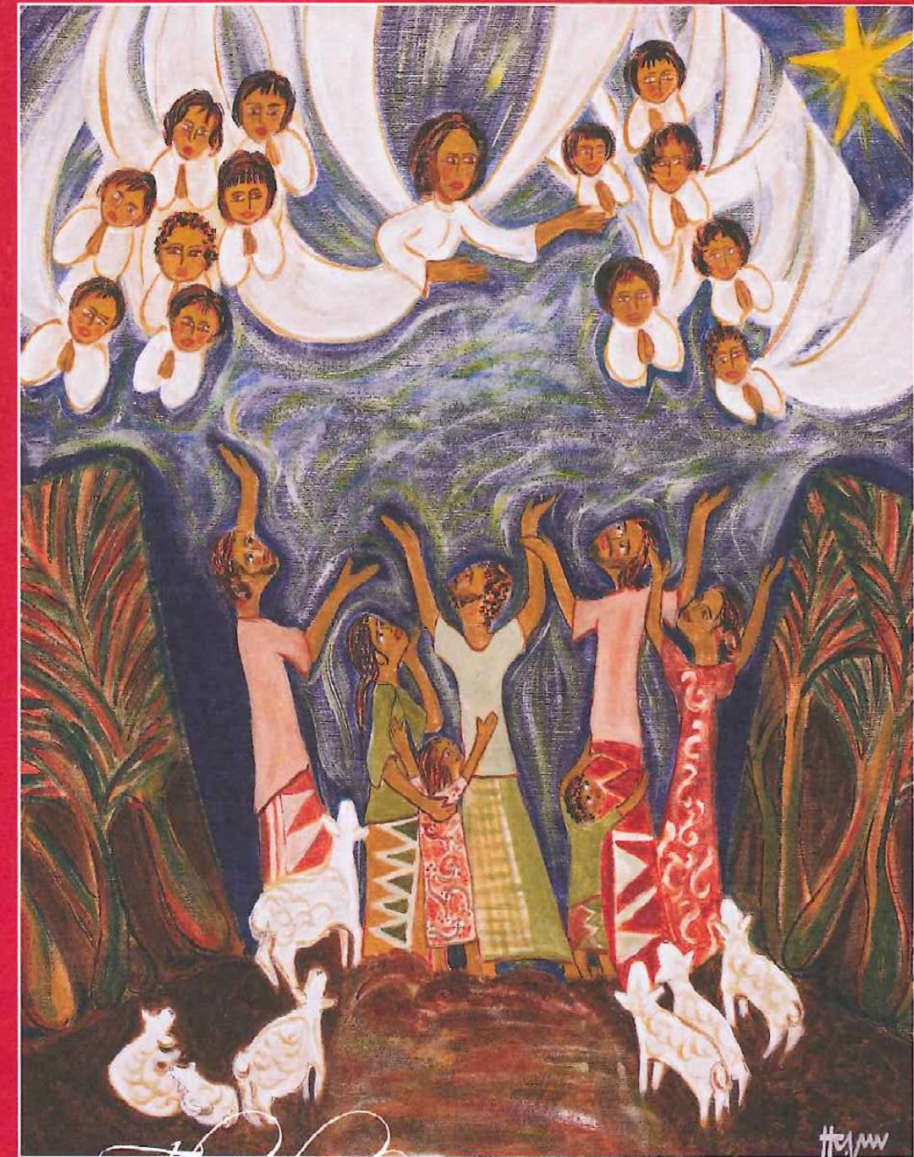
Winter brings me beauty:
Look up at the star-filled sky.
Pause to breathe the crisp air.
Vigil with steel-blue sunsets.
Marvel at frost etchings on windows.
Sink boots into soft, sensual powder.

Winter gives me silent hope:
Touch the terminal buds on branches.
Clear the snow and find green moss below.
Watch the sunlight fade, then linger longer.
Stand with the strength of evergreen trees.
Listen to birds cheeping at the feeder.

JOYCE RUPP

2011 Christmas Joy Offering

Good News of Great Joy



Thank You for your gift!

*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."



**Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25, 2011**

SILENT REFLECTION

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come before God with joyful songs."
Psalm 110: 1-2

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!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT #40 "Joy to the World!"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

One: In the days to come, says the prophet Isaiah,
All: the wolf shall live with the lam, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

One: the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
All: and a little child shall lead them.

One: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

UNISON PRAYER OF PRAISE

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Sprit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The poinsettia plants decorating the sanctuary today are given in Dedication to:

"In Celebration of Jesus—Hope for the World".....Pat Gibson

"In Celebration of Max Campbell.....Ken & Mary Ellen Campbell

"God So Loved The World That He Sent His Only Son...".....Fred & Bev King

"In Loving Memory of my parents".....Marilyn McAfee

"In Loving Memory of Rose Shake & George Stifel.....Bob Shake & Ruth Stifel

"Christ Was Born!".....Marjorie Heaton

"In Loving Memory of our parents".....Rick & Kay Amendola

"In Loving Memory of my husband, Sam".....Dolores Tippin

"Joy, Joy, Joy!".....Connie Winslow

"In Loving Memory of my husband, Jack, my parents and my two brothers, Bud & Jim".....Louise Hughes

"In Loving Memory of Dick Burtch".....The Burtch Family

"In Honor of our mother Louise Hughes and in Loving Memory of our parents; Jack Hughes and Hank and Mary Demschot....Dave & Sharon Demschot

"In Loving Memory of C. Webster Cole".....The Bandfield Family

"We Give Thanks For a Child Born For us, A Son Given To Us, Who Taught Us To Love All of God's People: REJOICE!".....Woody Cole



The Chancel Guild thanks all who have made our sanctuary beautiful this Advent Season. Poinsettia plants may be taken home after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service or the 10:00am Christmas Day service. Any plants left after the service will be delivered to shut-ins.

Special Announcements

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

2012 Offering Envelopes ~ Don't forget to stop by the table in the narthex in front of the name tags board to pick up your giving envelopes for 2012.

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.

Ordination and Installation of Officers ~ This will take place on Sunday, January 8, 2012 in the morning worship service.

Annual Report ~ All written and financial reports are due into the church office by Thursday, January 12, 2012. If you have any questions regarding the written reports please contact Darlene in the church office and for the financial reports please contact Tim Eichenauer. Thank you.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 2: 1-7**
MEDITATION **"The Gift of Room"**

HYMN #59 (verses 1, 2, & 6) "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 2: 8-16**
MEDITATION **"The Gift of Bread"**

HYMN #25 "Away in a Manger"

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 2: 1-20**
MEDITATION **"The Gift of Sight"**

HYMN #31 (verses 1, 3) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

SCRIPTURE READING **John 1: 1-9, 14**
MEDITATION **"The Gift of Light"**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN #53 "What Child Is This"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GIFTS

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

***DOXOLOGY FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Praise God whose Son was born this night.
Praise Christ who came to give us light.
Praise Holy Spirit, Three in One;
Let praises ring, thy will be done. Amen.**

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you fill our lives with your abundant grace. When we hoard what you have given us, it rots like manna with the morning sun. When we share your abundance with others, we know the joy for which you created us. May the gifts we share today bring joy to others as our witness to your love, the love made human in your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORDS PRAYER

WE FO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Pat

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. May the God of peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Amen.

***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 SUNDAY: New Years Day Service; Communion by Intinction
TEXT: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40**

Calendar for the Week of December 26—January 1, 2011

**Monday, Dec. 26 ~ Church Office Closed
No Adult Volleyball
Tuesday, Dec. 27 ~ Rev. Pat on vacation from the 27-29
Thursday, Dec. 29 ~ No Potluck or Lectionary Bible Study
Choir practice 6:30pm
Friday, Dec. 30 ~ No Food Pantry
Sunday, Jan. 1 ~ New Years Day Service at 10:00am; Communion by Intinction**

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

FOR CHILDREN:

Nursery Room (birth – 3 yrs. old).....(available 9:45am-11:30am).....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 18, 2011: 76

TODAY'S USHERS: Barb Roadruck, Cindy Kerr

TODAY'S GREETER: Alberta Bailey

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Michael & William Henning

NEXT SUNDAY'S USHERS: Co-Captains: Christina Roebuck & Agnes McKinstry, Linda Hoover, Kim Jensen

NEXT SUNDAY'S GREETER: Dolores Tippin

NEXT SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Ken Bennett & Dan Yeager