

Holding

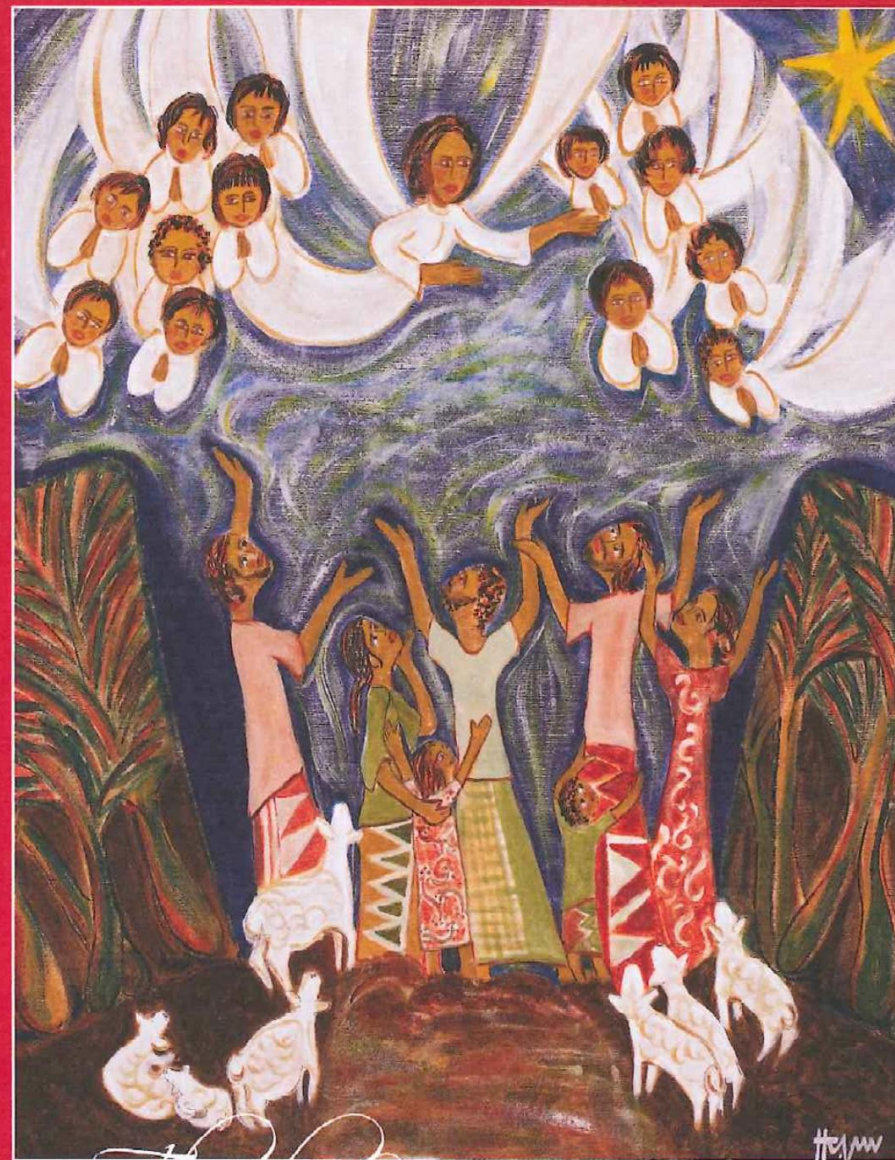
*The Day is here
and we made it to Bethlehem!
The time has come for kneeling
and we've seen the Child!
There is singing in the stable
and we want desperately to hold on to it...
hold on to the Star!
and the angels!
and the spirit of love!
How do we hold on
to the Christmas spirit?
Why can't every day be Christmas?*

*The world mutters "Be realistic,"
and sometimes we church people mutter too.
On our way back from Bethlehem
sometimes we forget
what we've been warned about in a dream:
to return another way.
Once we've seen the Child,
we're left holding hearts
wherein angels dance
and stars sing!
Once we've been to Bethlehem,
every day is Christmas!*

Taken from the book "Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Ann Weems

2011 Christmas Joy Offering

Good News of Great Joy



Thank You for your gift!



5:00 PM

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

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2011

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Shannon Smith

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

Holy One, you gave us the gift of life, you put us in a stunning world, and you made us free to choose. In Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, you gave us new life and new hope for knowing you. May that Light shine through our choices, our words, and our acts, so that others will praise you, source of Light and Love. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Isaiah 11:6,9)

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.

***HYMN ~ #2095**

"Star-Child"

LITANY OF PRAISE

With hearts open wide, we journey to the stable.

Amazing God, tender child, we offer you our words, brimming with joy.

We offer you our hands, ready to lift those who have fallen, those who are in need.

We offer you our hearts, persistent in loving and faithful in caring.

Amazing God, tender child, we journey to Bethlehem where we fall on our knees, as we thank you for the reason to sing carols and gather together with family and friends.

Thank you for this season of stars and songs. Amen.



*The Fairgreen Presbyterian Church Staff
would like to wish you and your family
a very Merry Christmas and
a Blessed New Year!*

*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 Domschot..... Dave & Sharon Domschot*

*“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 services will
be delivered to shut-ins.*



TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

**Time to Prepare The Congregation
Hymn ~ #44 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, verses 1 & 2**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

**Time to Prepare The Community ~ Micah 5: 2
Hymn ~ #25 “Away in a Manger”
The holy family arrives**

**Time to Prepare Our Homes ~ Luke 2: 1-7
Hymn ~ #53 “What Child Is This?”, verses 1 & 3
The angels arrive**

**Time to Prepare Our Greetings ~ Luke 2: 8-14
Hymn ~ #56 “The First Nowell”, verses 1 & 2
The angels leave and the shepherds arrive**

**Time to Prepare Our Tree ~ Luke 2: 15-20
Hymn ~ #29 “Go Tell It On The Mountain”
The shepherds leave and the kings arrive**

**Time to Prepare Our Gifts ~ John 3: 16 and Matthew 2: 1-12
Hymn ~ #66 “We Three Kings”, verses 1 & 5
The holy family and the kings depart**

**Time to Prepare Our Hearts ~ Matthew 1: 18-25
Hymn ~ #9 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, verses 1 & 4**

Christmas Meditation

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE OFFERING AND THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING OFFERTORY ~

*DOXOLOGY OF 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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION ~

For all who have given and for all who wanted to give, we thank you, God.
For the gift of your child Jesus, born this night, we thank you, God.
Through these offerings, may love grow. Amen.

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Folded Hands and Shinning Lights

Rev. Pat

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORDS PRAYER (debts)

Rev. Pat

WE GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*THE CANDLE LIGHT LITURGY

One: In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

All: Let there be light.

One: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.

All: Let there be light.

One: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

All: Let there be light.

One: We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can live, by which we can love.

All: Let there be light.

One: We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own little candles. We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us even in this moment.

All: Let there be light.

One: So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the babe born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

All: Let there be light.

One: May we be so emboldened as to share the love of God with world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.

All: Let there be light.

One: We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the years—"Come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel."

All: Let there be light.

(The liturgist and pastor will pass the candlelight through the congregation. Please pass the flame along your row, tipping your unlit candle into the flame.)

*HYMN OF THE HOLY BIRTH ~ #60

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*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.

POSTLUDE

(Please place your extinguished candle in the baskets in the Narthex as you leave.)