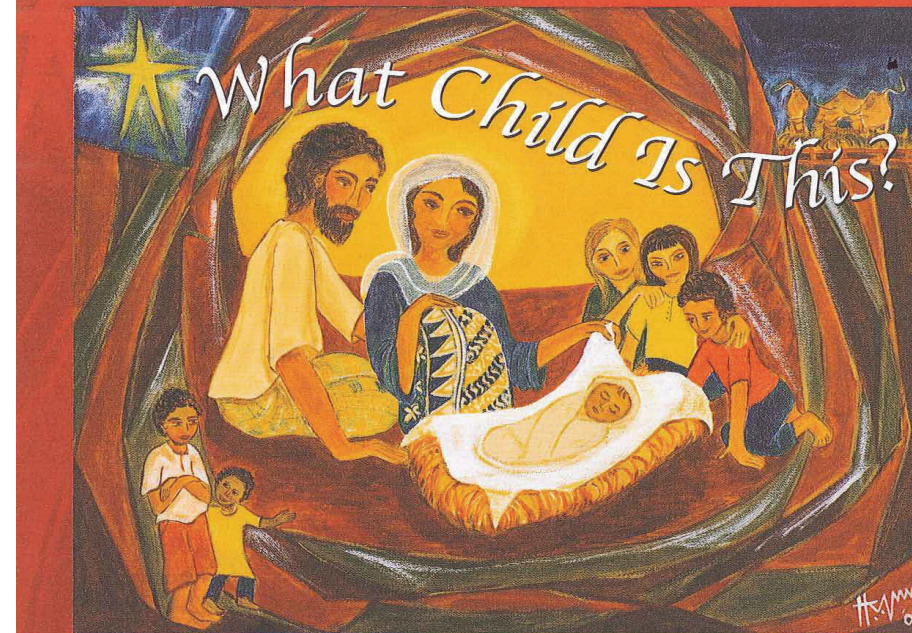


The Cross In the Manger

If there is no cross in the manger,
there is no Christmas.
If the Babe doesn't become the Adult,
there is no Bethlehem star.
If there is no communion in us,
there are no Wise Men searching.
If we offer no cup of cold water,
there is no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh.
If there is no praising God's name,
there is no angels singing.
If there is no spirit of alleluia,
there is no shepherds watching.
If there is no standing up, no speaking out, no risk,
there is no Herod, no flight into Egypt.
If there is no room in our inn,
then "Merry Christmas" mocks the Christ Child,
and the Holy Family is just a holiday card,
and God will loathe our feasts and festivals.

For if there is no reconciliation,
we cannot call Christ "Prince of Peace."
If there is no goodwill toward others,
it can all be packed away in boxes for another year.
If there is no forgiveness in us,
there is no cause for celebration.
If we cannot go now even unto Golgotha,
there is no Christmas in us.
If Christmas is not now,
if Christ is not born into the everyday present,
then what is all the noise about?

Taken from "Kneeling in Bethlehem" by Ann Weems



Art by Hanna Cheriyan Varghese, Malaysia
Overseas Ministry Study Center, www.omsc.org

December 27, 2009

*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 the church (419-475-4436).



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



First Sunday After Christmas

SILENT REFLECTION

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 your Light shine through our choices, our words, and our acts, so that others will praise your, source of Light and Love. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign fellowship book found in pews.

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CALL TO WORSHIP

To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has been slipped into our midst.

A tiny child, born in a manger,

A gift of peace to troubled souls and dangerous streets,

A gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives,

A gift of hope to wearied brows and oppressed peoples,

A tiny child, gift of God.

Open your hearts: raise your songs.

Give thanks to the giver; welcome the gift.

***HYMN ~ # 56**

The First Nowell, vss. 1, 2

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Men's Prayer Breakfast ~ All men join us on Saturday, January 9th from 8-9am in the lounge for a time fellowship, prayer and studying God's Word. We will be serving a Continental Breakfast consisting of donuts, pastries, coffee and juice.

February Fellowship Feast ~ This dinner will feature rib-eye steak accompanied by other "fabulous fixings". So reserve the date on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 5:30pm.

Kroger Rewards ~ To register your Kroger Plus Card to benefit Fairgreen Deacons, please do one of the following: Go to the Customer Service Desk at the Kroger store, register on-line, or speak to Jan Anderson if you would like her assistance with on-line registration. Kroger will send a percentage of your grocery sales to the church on a quarterly basis.

Number who worshiped with us on December 20, 2009: 81

TODAY'S USHERS: Kay Amendola, Capt./ Marilyn McAfee, Jackie Campbell, Richard Redd

TODAY'S GREETER: Maud Pearson

NEXT SUNDAY'S USHERS:

NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGIST:

Special Announcements

Holiday Office Hours ~ For the week of December 28-January 1, the office will be open Monday thru Thursday, 8:30-2pm and closed on Friday, January 1, 2010.

Year End Contributions And Outstanding Invoices ~ Any 2009 offerings to Fairgreen (operating budget or for any other purpose) must be received into the church office no later than Monday, December 28, 2009, in order to be recorded as a 2009 contribution. All offerings received on this date, are considered to be for 2009, unless you specify on your envelope that it is for 2010. If you have any outstanding invoices, you need to have them approved and into the church office no later than Tuesday, December 29, 2009.

Per Capita Apportionment ~ The year 2010 per capita apportionment is \$27.16 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.

Elder/Deacon Retreat ~ We are asking that you set aside the following dates and times, Friday, January 8th (7pm) through Saturday, January 9th (5pm) to attend the Elder/Deacon Retreat at the Lial 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 4th. 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 10, 2010.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creative God, you make all things new and you hold out a new day and a new year for us. Yet how often we squander the opportunities, letting our doubts overwhelm us, letting our sins bind us, letting our fears stop us. You offer us new dreams, and we succumb to old weaknesses; you offer us hope and we choose the comfortable.

Creative God, we have touched the joy of Christmas. Let us carry a measure of delight and bounty of love into your new day. Fill us with the joy of living and the spirit of giving as we approach the new year. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

"The Gloria Patri" (#579)

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH ~

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 room 110.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Amen.

