



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2014**

Meditation before Worship

“Too often our answer to the darkness
is not running toward Bethlehem
but running away.

We ought to know by now that we can't see
where we're going in the dark...

When are we going to learn that Christmas Peace
comes only when we turn and face the darkness?

Only then will we be able to see
the Light of the World.”

-Ann Weems

Fort Street Presbyterian Church

631 W. Fort Street

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone (313) 961-4533

www.fortstreet.org

www.facebook.com/fortstreet

Gathering the Community

PRELUDE

Ray Staroscik
Organist

WELCOME

Rev. Roxie Davis

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7)

Loretta Stanton

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**Many: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined...**

One: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Many: Authority rests upon His shoulders, and He is named:

One: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Many: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

Many: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness.

One: From this time onward and forevermore.

Many: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*HYMN # 41

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Petrie family

One: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent.
In Advent we await with eager expectation,
the coming of God’s Son.

**Many: We remember how God came to us in the person of Jesus,
how divine Love came down and walked among us.**

One: Jesus is Emmanuel—God with us.
We wait with longing for the day when Christ will come once again,
and darkness will be no more.

**Many: Today we light the fourth candle of Love. There is no greater power than
the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

(Lighting the fourth candle)

One: It is stronger than rulers and governments; stronger than grief and despair;
stronger than even darkness and death.

Many: We love because God first loved us.

RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY PRAYER

Loretta Stanton

One: Lord, God, please forgive us, as we trudge through the never-ending tasks set before us this Christmas season.

Many: Our to-do lists seem to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings—and we are running short of time.

One: Restore the joy of Christmas to our hearts.

Many: Help us to relax each day and make time for YOU—our one true Source of Joy.

One: Merciful God, remind us of the gift of Your grace and forgiveness.

Many: Open us up to your Spirit so that we can give You thanks. Remind us that your story of the saving love of Jesus has become our story.

One: Allow us to come as Your children, giving us hearts of wonder and excitement for the presence of Your Son in our lives.

Many: Help us, Lord God, to be the faithful, gracious, loving, giving and forgiving people you would have us be. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS *(in silence)*

*SHARING THE PEACE

Loretta Stanton

The Peace of the Living Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN # 56

"The First Noel" (vv.1-4)

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT
(Feel free to use the language and words closest to your heart)

Rev. Roxie Davis

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Ray Staroscik

*DOXOLOGY # 591

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loretta Stanton

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 1-7
(p. 54 in pew Bibles)

God's Word for us. **Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD

LET'S GET TO BETHLEHEM!

Children and Youth Share Christmas
Written by Jordan Barconey and David Lewis

HYMN # 60

"Silent Night"

with guest artists Nancy Combs and Susannah Goodman

"Enter the Stable"

HYMN # 40

"Joy to the World"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

"Do Not Be Afraid"

(Please sit quietly enjoying the postlude as part of your worship experience)

Jordan Barconey
and David Lewis

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

Ray Staroscik,
Organist

+ + +

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit at your discretion

Please come to the Great Hall immediately following service for Breakfast in Bethlehem.
Pancakes and fruit will be hosted by Community Fellowship in the Star of the East Cafe

Fort Street welcomes:

Rev. Dr. Roxie Davis, who has been a pastor for 38 years. In those 38 years she has been co-pastor with her husband, Rev. Dr. Bill Davis, before retiring in September of 2013. Roxie and Bill were co-pastors for 11 years at the First Presbyterian Church in Mount Clemens, Michigan. They have served churches in Massachusetts, Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska and Michigan. Roxie earned her Bachelors Degree in Recreation from San Jose State University with a specialty in music and drama; her Masters of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Seminary, outside of Boston; and her Doctor of Ministry degree at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

Bill and Roxie have three children and two grandchildren. Their two daughters currently live in Tanzania, Africa and in Colombia, South America and their son lives in Texas. Because their children have lived all over the world, Bill and Roxie have been on seven continents and experienced 27 different countries. Roxie has a lot of joy in her life because she has been blessed abundantly by God. She loves to serve God in many different ways.

Liturgist
Sound Technician
Videographer
Worship Coordinator
Reception Coordinator

Loretta Stanton
Twiler French
Randy Commissaris
Kalu Uduma
Agnes Lewis
Princess

Ushers are available to provide assistance with particular needs:

Large Print Hymnals
Hearing Assist System
Wheelchair Access Ramp
Wheelchair Seating--locations available in the sanctuary
Handicap Restroom--using elevator to second floor

We are delighted that you are here!

- * Join others for refreshments in the Great Hall after the worship service.
- * Visit the information and display tables in the narthex.
- * Large print bulletins and hymnals are available.
- * Capable and loving nursery attendants are ready to care for little ones through age 4 during the service. Ask an usher to direct you.
- * CDs of today's service and/or previous services may be ordered thru the church secretary @ \$3.00 each.
- * You may add to the beauty of our weekly worship by contributing a floral donation. Flowers are usually given in memory of or in honor of persons or events. Contact Pam Sharrow at Sharrow13@gmail.com. The church office will contact you for your floral dedication.

FORT STREET STAFF:

Judith Sheldon, Director of Christian Education; Ben Ogden, Director of Open Door; Edward Kingins, Music Director; Lola JF Davidson, Secretary; LaMonica Harris, Temp. Bookkeeper, Kenneth McCoy, Building Engineer; Donna Bryant, Bob Haynes, Parking Security; Marilyn Moore, Karen Wright, Donlin Center Staff; Stacey Kershaw, Johnnie Hester, Cheryl Glidden, Open Door Staff.

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Crilley

Web Page: www.fortstreet.org
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Prayer List for the month of December 2014

Don/Lois Bardwell, Lynne Bieniek, The Claire family, Lorraine/Harrison Coleman family, Dombrowski family, Bobbie Edwards/family, FSPC, David Ferrato, Rose Grosscup, Shannon Howard, Maria Hughley, Marion Jenkins/family, Mary Etta Johnson, Geraldine Adams Jones, Valerie Kimbrough, Lemus family, Lewis family, Don/Virginia Lorimer, Karen Marcil, Dr. Mook/family, Dan Muench, Cheryl Myers, Jerry Naragon, Claudia Novitzsky, Derrick Parker/family, Kathy Payne/family, Richard Petrie, Easter Ponder, Jennie/David Poole, Robinson family, Richard/Suellen Sale family, Joan Szwed family, Cathy Topping.

Prayers for Military loved ones.

CPL Christopher Whittaker-Bonner USMC, Lt. Harrison L Coleman USN, Jonathan Heyler USN, SSGT Shanell Howard USAF, Sgt. Christopher King, Maj. Michael Kurtti, USAF, Lt. Theo Moran USAF, Alta Morrison, Lt. Jon Palmer USA, Lt. Marty Palmer USA, Charles Andrew Parsons II USN, Major Michelle Ruehl AF, Capt. Katy Spicer Hess, USMC, Alexander Szelestey, USMC, Lt. Mark Webster.