

Christmas Eve 2015

O Holy Night



Fort Street Presbyterian Church

631 W. Fort Street

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone (313) 961-4533

www.fortstreet.org

www.facebook.com/fortstreet

PRAYER FOR INDIVIDUAL MEDITATION

*Loving God, help us to remember the birth of Jesus
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.
Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.
May Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Henry Van Dyke

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Fort Street Presbyterian Church
Detroit, Michigan
December 24, 2015

PRELUDE MUSIC

Ray Staroscik,
Organist

"A Christmas Melody"

-arr. David Wilcox

"Ave Maria"

-Schubert

Edward Kingins, tenor
Carmen Cavallaro, piano

"Ave Maria"

-Franz Biebl

"Ave Maria"

-Caccini

Rebekah Awood, soprano

"Traenamus Useq Bethlehem"

-Antoni Ruggio

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Bob Agnew

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

-Adam

Combined Choirs
Elizabeth Malin, soprano

THE LIGHT OF THE PROPHETS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deborah Evans

Prepare the way of the Lord...then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. (Isaiah 40:3-5)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest on him. (Isaiah 11:1-2a)

But you, O Bethlehem, Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep...A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6; 40:11)

*HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads"

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
behold the King of glory waits,
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee, here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel,
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

MEDITATION

"Great Expectations"

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

(in unison)

Gracious God, we approach Christmas day with a song in our hearts and praise on our lips. Through the prophets of old, you have given us a ray of hope and a vision of righteousness. You alone remain faithful when all else fails. Let the light of your Word shine through this service and brighten our darkened lives. Keep us alert and awake to signs of your presence. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive the hope, peace, joy, and love you offer through the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Deborah Evans

MEDITATION

"No Room"

THE CANDLE OF PEACE

ANTHEM:

"Still, Still, Still"

-Austrian Carol

Combined Choirs

*Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,
sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.*

THE LIGHT OF THE ANGELS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

Deborah Evans

MEDITATION

"Hear the Angels Sing"

THE CANDLE OF JOY

*HYMN:

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.**

THE LIGHT OF THE SHEPHERDS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

Deborah Evans

MEDITATION

"Love Came Down"

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

ANTHEM:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

-Darke

Combined Choirs
Nancy Combs, soprano

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels, may have gathered there
cherubim and seraphim, thronged the air
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved, with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Come to Me Jesus, My Love"

-Cherubini

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5,14

Dr. Bob Agnew

MEDITATION

"Candles of Christmas"

THE CHRIST CANDLE

*LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*MEDLEY OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS *(first verse only)*

"Silent Night"

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

"Away in a Manger"

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born king!"**

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*RAISING OF CANDLE TO PROCLAIM JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*MOMENT OF SILENCE

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

*BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bob Agnew

(Please extinguish your candle following the benediction.)

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“He Has Come to Us This Day”

-Metzger

(You are invited to remain in your pew to enjoy the Postlude. If you must leave, please do so quietly so that others may enjoy this part of the worship service.)

+ + +

**Please rise in body, mind, or spirit.*

CANDLES IN THE SERVICE

As you enter the Sanctuary, each person receives a small candle with a drip protector. If you missed the usher with the candles, please get one from the box at the entrance.

Keep the candles until the time of the candle lighting. Light your candle from the person next to you, and then allow the person on your other side to light his or hers from yours. To keep from dropping wax on yourself or others, please hold the lighted candle upright, and tilt the candle to be lighted toward the upright flame.

When all the candles are burning, the pastor will hold his candle high. The congregation will please join him and then for a few moments reflect on the power of the Light of Christ. When the service ends, please extinguish candles and place them in boxes near the exits.

Stated Supply Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Robert Agnew

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

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Music Director	Edward Kingins
Organist	Ray Staroscik
Piano	Carmen Cavallaro
Sopranos	Rebekah Awood Nancy Combs
Liturgist	Deborah Evans
Sound Technician	Nancy Jackson
Videographer	Randy Commissaris
Worship Coordinator	Loretta Stanton
Deacon on Duty	Bob Ponder

CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION

Following the service, you are invited to continue your Christmas Eve celebration with family and friends in the Great Hall of the Church House. Tonight's reception is hosted by the Community Fellowship Committee and other members and friends of the congregation.

THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

The church offices will be closed December 25-29, 2015 and January 1-4, 2016. The church offices will return to its regular schedule on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 8:00am to 4:00pm.

FORT STREET STAFF:

Alison Grosch, Operations Manager, Judith Sheldon, Director of Christian Education; Ben Ogden, Director of Open Door; Edward Kingins, Director of Music; Ray Staroscik, Organist; Lola JF Davidson, Secretary; Loretta Stanton, Wedding Coordinator; Jerry Johnson, Building Engineer; Donna Bryant, Damien Hines, Greg Howell, Parking Security; Marilyn Moore, Karen Wright, Donlin Center Staff; Stacey Kershaw and Elizabeth Kershaw, Open Door Staff.

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
TO YOU ALL!**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Given by:

Diane and Bob Agnew

Lynne Rose Bieniek

Christopher T. Bloodworth

Ruth Boyce

Beth, Bruce, and Owen Brown

Jack and Kate Callas

Havard Cole

Bobbie Edward

Kathy and Bill Evans

The Hintzen family

Jack M. Hodge

Motoko Huthwaite

Rob, Nancy, Laura and
Carrie Jackson

Tom and Michelle Marshall

Craig McLean

In memory or honor of:

In loving memory of our parents.
In honor of the staff of Fort Street Presbyterian Church

In loving memory of Karen Davis, best friend

In loving memory of Allie J. Bloodworth and Shirley Wills

In loving memory of Peter John Boyce

In honor of our families

In loving memory of our beloved daughter Elena

In loving memory of Josh and Seqovia Cole

In loving memory of Sarah and John Morgan
In honor of the Edward family

In loving memory of James Brehmer, Evelyn Evans
and Ken and Irene Logan

In honor of the Hintzen family

In loving memory of my mom and dad.

In loving memory of my late husband, W. Ernest C. Huthwaite
In loving memory of my parents, Dr. and Mrs. Shinji Fujishiro

In honor of the marriage of Melanie Jackson and Jim Fenton

In honor of Lola Falzone

In loving memory of James A. Benoit, Edythe McLean
and John McLean

Marilyn Denise Moore

In loving memory of my mom and dad,
my brothers, Johnny Elroy Jr. and Leon
In honor of Irene Westmoreland King
and Luwella Moore

Lisa, Bob, Lucy,
Fiona and John Sakkab

In loving memory of John (Jack) Cameron

Robb and Pam Sharrow

In loving memory of Elena, Diane and our parents
In honor of our faithful Fort Street family

Barbara and Craig Smith

In loving memory of Ken McCoy

The Staff of Fort Street

In loving memory of our colleague
and friend Ken McCoy

Turner and Walker Family

In loving memory of Elder Dolores Walker Turner
(1935-1995)

Jessie and Kalu Uduma

In honor and gratitude for the great things
God has done for our family

The Woods family

In loving memory of Ace and Iola Woods,
and Mabel Johnson
In honor of Bill, Elaine and Jack Krell

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE YOUR POINSETTIAS WITH YOU FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.



THE LIFE CHANGING POTENTIAL IN A PROMISE

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This Advent season, we reflect upon God's promise of salvation. Made to each of us, and kept with the birth of Jesus, this promise has changed countless lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering we make and keep two promises of our own: to church workers through assistance in their time of need and to racial ethnic education and leadership development. Each of these promises is kept, equally by the gift you give, and each has the power to change lives. Envelopes are in your pews. Please give generously.