



**Nativity of Jesus Christ
Christmas Day**

December 25, 2016

“O Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the joys of this season, for the divine love that was shed abroad when Thou didst first come as a little child. But may we not think of Thy coming as a distant event that took place once and has never been repeated. May we know that Thou art still here walking among us, by our sides, whispering over our shoulders, tugging at our sleeves, smiling upon us when we need help and encouragement. So may Christmas linger with us, even as Thou art beside us the whole year through. Amen.”

Peter Marshall

Fort Street Presbyterian Church

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www.fortstreet.org

www.facebook.com/fortstreet

Gathering the Community

PRELUDE *“Still, Still, Still”* arr. James Biery
Marilyn Biery, Music Director /Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Bob Agnew

CALL TO WORSHIP Nancy Jackson

Sing a new song, all the earth, for God's gift of light and love.

We will bless God's name and proclaim God's salvation. “Glory to God in the highest!”

Unto us a child was born; in a manger the grace of God appeared.

The baby, for whom there was no room, welcomes us to honored places in God's family.

We rejoice in Christ's coming and give thanks for the love God reveals.

*HYMN # 133 *“O Come All Ye Faithful”* ADESTE FIDELES

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Nancy Jackson

O God of Christmas love, we sing of love come down, but too often fail to reveal it in our daily lives. We sing of peace on earth, but have not always been peacemakers. We welcome your spiritual nativity, but do not live fully in the light of your indwelling presence. Have mercy upon us. Cleanse our hearts. Be born in us this day that we may go forth into the new year proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ through kind words and loving deeds. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE SONG # 113 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* vs. 1 GLORIA

*SHARING THE PEACE Nancy Jackson

The Peace of the Living Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD

SONG FOR ILLUMINATION # 124 *“Still, Still, Still”* vs.1 STILL,STILL,STILL

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7 Nancy Jackson
(p. 600 in pew Bibles)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO *"Carol of the Birds"* James Biery
Dennis Carter, flutist

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 Dr. Bob Agnew
(pp.54-55 in pew Bibles)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATIONS: **"CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS"** Dr. Bob Agnew
121 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* ST. LOUIS
122 *"Silent Night Holy Night"* STILLE NACHT
123 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* CAROL

THE RESPONSE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Christmas Affirmation)* Nancy Jackson

We believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the Gospel that began in Bethlehem, for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and whose birth angels announced to shepherds. We believe in Him whom the kings of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand, whose paths were among the common people, whose welcome came from people of hungry hearts. We believe that only by love expressed shall the earth be purified. We acknowledge the glory of all that is like Christ, the steadfastness of friends, the blessedness of homes, the beauty of compassion and the miracle of many hearts made kind at Christmas. We pray, as those who have seen a great light, that His peace may continue to spread throughout the world. Amen.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF THE PLEDGES AND GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 119 *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* vs.3 MENDELSSOHN

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Nancy Jackson

*HYMN # 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Marilyn Biery

(If you wish to do so, we invite you to sit quietly and enjoy the postlude as part of your worship.)

+ + +

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

Thank you for gathering with us for worship this morning. Following worship, there will be a coffee hour in the small dining area. Please join us!

Organist/Music Director

Marilyn Biery

Flutist

Dennis Carter

Liturgist

Nancy Jackson

Sound Tech

Nancy Jackson

Worship Coordinator

Craig McLean

Church Holiday Hours

The church offices will be closed from December 26-27, 2016 and January 2. The church offices will open on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Ushers are available to provide assistance with particular needs:

Hearing Assist System
Wheelchair Access Ramp
Wheelchair Seating--locations available in the sanctuary
Handicap Restroom--use elevator to second floor

We are delighted that you are here!

- * Visit the information and display tables in the narthex.
- * During the worship service, child care is provided for children through age 4. Ushers can provide directions. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in Sunday School, which follows the Children's Message. A Christian Education staff member will lead the children downstairs. Parents may pick them up after worship. For additional information about our Sunday School program, please contact Judith Sheldon at firstcircleinc@sbcglobal.net. or Nancy Jackson at nancymottershawjackson@gmail.com.
- * 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.

Prayer List for the Month of December 2016

Gabrielle Abrego, Don and Lois Bardwell, Lynne Bieniek, Lorraine and Harrison Coleman, Geraldine Adams Jones, Valorie Kimbrough, Virginia Lorimer, The Millhench family, Kathy Payne and family, Jane Petrie, Richard and Suellen Sale.

Prayers for Military Loved Ones.

(We are seeking to update our Military Roll. Please contact the church office with any changes.)

Lt. Harrison L Coleman USN; Jonathan Heyler USN; SSGT Shanell Howard USAF; Maj. Michael Kurtti USAF; Capt. Theo Moran USAF; Major Katy Spicer USMC; Lt. Mark Webster USAF.

FORT STREET STAFF:

Alison Grosch, Operations Manager; Judith Sheldon, Director of Christian Education; John Glover, Director of Open Door; Marilyn Biery, Director of Music/Organist; Edward Kingins, Director of Music Emeritus; Lola JF Davidson, Secretary; Loretta Stanton, Wedding Coordinator; Jerry Johnson, Building Engineer; Damien Hines, Custodian; Karen Wright, Donlin Center Staff.

Temporary Stated Supply Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Robert Agnew
pastor@fortstreet.org


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

Web Site: www.fortstreet.org
www.facebook.com/fortstreet

Fort Street News

MISSION STATEMENT

Fort Street Presbyterian Church is an oasis in an urban environment, building a caring Christian community where diversity is celebrated and developing programs that minister to metropolitan Detroit and the world beyond. We do this in response to the grace of God through Jesus Christ, recognizing the truth of the Gospel: *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
December 2016				9-11am Open Door 7:30 Chorale Rehearsal	Church Offices Closed	3:00 Messiah Concert 5:30pm AA 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
4 9:45am Adult Ed 11:00am Worship, 3:00 Messiah Concert 6:30pm NA	5 Risers are taken down	6 8:30am Clothes Sort 12-2pm Career Clst 8:00-9:00pm AA	7 2:00pm Staff mtg 7:00 Session	8 9-11am Open Door 6:30 Chorale Council mtg 7:30 Chorale Rehearsal	9 Church Offices Closed 8:00-9:00pm AA	10 5:30pm AA 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
11 9:45am Adult Ed 11:00am Worship, (Communion) 12:30-3:00 CE Movie/ brown bag luncheon 3:00pm Wedding 6:30pm NA Celebration Sunday	12	13 8:30am Clothes Sort 12-2pm Career Clst 8:00-9:00pm AA	14 2:00pm Staff mtg 6:00 Fiscal Mtg	15 9-11am Open Door 11:30 Open Dr. mtg 7:30 Chorale Rehearsal	16 Church Offices Closed 8:00-9:00pm AA	17 5:30pm AA 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
18 9:45am Adult Ed 10:00 Children's Rehearsal 11:00am Worship 12:30 Breakfast in Bethlehem Coffee Hr. 6:30pm NA	19 Staff Christmas party	20 8:30am Clothes Sort 12-2pm Career Clst 8:00-9:00pm AA	21 2:00pm Staff mtg	22 9-11am Open Door	23 Church Offices Closed 8:00-9:00pm AA	24 5:30pm AA 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
25 11:00am Worship, (CHRISTMAS) 6:30pm NA 	26 Church Offices Closed for Holiday	27 Church Offices Closed for Holiday	28 2:00pm Staff mtg	29 9-11am Open Door	30 Church Offices Closed 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal 8:00-9:00pm AA	31 3:00 pm Wedding 5:30pm AA 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non

YEAR-END GIVING

In this Season of Advent, as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and the end of the year, many of us spend time thinking about giving back. Our relationship with Fort Street is a crucial part of our life throughout the year, but especially during the Christmas season. We are all certainly busy, but please spare a moment to consider what support you can give to the work of Fort Street during the Christmas season. There are only a few weeks left to fulfill your 2016 stewardship pledge! To date we have received 82% of the amount pledged for 2016. Your support is critical to the mission of the Church in the world.

According to IRS guidelines, for charitable contributions to qualify for a 2016 deduction, they must be received in the church office on or before December 31, 2016.

We hope you will prayerfully consider the role of Fort Street in your life this Christmas season, and contemplate how you can support the Church in this season, and throughout the year.

In order to make giving easier, you can donate on our website using your credit card or PayPal account (<http://fortstreet.org/you/donate>) or of course on Sunday in the offering tray.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year