

Christmas Eve 2016



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
with the Michigan Black Presbyterian Caucus
at
Fort Street Presbyterian Church
Detroit, Michigan
December 24, 2016

7:00 p.m. Preservice Music

7:30 p.m. Worship Service

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME

Pastor Bob Agnew

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

Adam
arr. J. Biery

THE LIGHT OF THE HOPE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deborah Fair
Westminster Church

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 # 93 *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* (Vs. 1 & 3) TRURO

**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

Deborah Fair

THE PROPHETS' CANDLE

Layla Humphreys
Westminster Church

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 # 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Vs.6)

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE LIGHT OF PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Bob Ponder

Fort Street Church

MEDITATION

Pastor Charon Barcone

Hope Church

THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

Tom Turner

Fort Street Church

HYMN # 121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

**Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee 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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim thy holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us to day.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; a-bide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE LIGHT OF JOY

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-14

Alison Oglesby

Broadstreet Church

MEDITATION

Mary Ann Brantley

Gratiot Avenue Church

THE ANGELS' CANDLE

Stefanie Lewis

Hope Church

*HYMN # 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Vs. 1, 2, & 4)

CAROL

**It came upon a midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will 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 angel sing.**

THE LIGHT OF LOVE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

Charlene Smith

St. John's Church

MEDITATION

Pastor Opelton Parker

Broadstreet Church

THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE

Adrienne Adams

Calvary Church

ANTHEM: "Jesus, Tiny Child" Marilyn and James Biery
The Worship Choir

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Rosy Latimore
Birmingham First Church

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Maria's Lullaby" Max Reger
Leslie Douglass Mason, soprano

***Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child, while amid the treetops
sighs the breeze so warm and mild. Ah, baby! Sleep, dear one, slumber now.
Happy is your laughter, holy is your silent rest. Lay your head in slumber fondly
on your mother's breast. Ah, baby! Sleep, dear one, slumber now.***

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5,14 Craig McLean
Fort Street Church

MEDITATION "Candles of Christmas" Pastor Bob Agnew

THE CHRIST CANDLE

*LIGHTING OF CANDLES (see instructions on page 8)

*MEDLEY OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

"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!"**

"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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

*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

(Please extinguish your candle following the benediction.)

POSTLUDE

(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.*

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN SERVICE

Music Director/Organist	Marilyn Biery
Guest Soloists	Leslie Douglass Mason Dennis Carter Lydia Cleaver
Choir	The Worship Choir
Sound Tech	Nancy Jackson
Worship Coordinator	Kalu Uduma

**A special thanks to participants from the Michigan Black Presbyterian Caucus
and to the churches they represent.**

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.

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.

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 26-27, 2016, and January 2. The church Offices will open on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

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.

Stated Supply Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Robert Agnew

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

Web Page: www.fortstreet.org

www.facebook.com/fortstreet



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Given by:

Bob and Diane Agnew

Lynne Rose Bieniek

Ruth Boyce

Bobbie Edwards and family

The Hintzens

Motoko F. Huthwaite

Rob and Nancy Jackson

Lorraine Manos

Tom and Michelle Marshall

Marilyn Moore

Richard and Suellen Sale

The Sharrows

Craig and Barbara Smith

The Staff of Fort Street

The Turner and Walker family

Kalu and Jessie Uduma

Willane and Jim Woods

In memory or honor of:

In loving memory of our Loved Ones
In honor of the Fort Street Staff

In loving memory of Karen Davis, my best friend

In honor of Mary and Trig

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John and Sarah Morgan
In honor of the Edwards family

In honor of our beautiful sanctuary

In loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Shinji Fujishiro
In loving memory of W. Ernest C. Huthwaite

In loving memory of Barbara Jackson, and Bill Mottershaw
In honor of Laura, Carrie and Melanie

In honor of my husband, Stephen

In loving memory of Tom and Barb McDonald
In loving memory of Wm and Mamie Marshall

In loving memory of my parents and my brother
In honor of our church family

In loving memory of Robert Sale
In honor of the Sale family

In loving memory of our parents,
In loving memory of Diane Robinson
In loving memory of Elena Callas
In honor of Ed Kingins

In honor of our seven grandchildren

In loving memory of Kenny McCoy

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

In loving memory of Kalu and Ozi Uduma (Kalu's parents)
In loving memory of Lot Iro and Ugo Ubi (Jessie's parents)
In honor of our thirty-six years in love and in marriage

In loving memory of Elaine and Maguerite Krell
In loving memory of Mabel and Lola Johnson
In honor of Bill and Jack Krell

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



Christian Christmas

Match these clues from the Bible and Jesus' birth to the answers.

Joy To The World!

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| ___ Third gift presented by Magi | A. Jesus |
| ___ King at the time Jesus was born | B. Incense |
| ___ Jesus found lying in this | C. Magi |
| ___ Town Jesus was born in | D. Joseph |
| ___ This has a pleasant scent when burned | E. Myrrh |
| ___ "_____ on Earth" | F. Bethlehem |
| ___ "O Come All Ye _____" | G. Angel |
| ___ This means "God with us" | H. Faithful |
| ___ Where Holy Family fled to after Jesus birth | I. Gold |
| ___ Precious metal given as a gift to Jesus | J. Mary |
| ___ Mary with child through the _____ | K. Dream |
| ___ He is the reason for the season! | L. Peace |
| ___ Visitors saw the star from the _____ | M. Nativity |
| ___ Human father of Jesus | N. Herod |
| ___ An angel appeared to Joseph in a _____ | O. Egypt |
| ___ Visual representation of the birth of Jesus | P. Manger |
| ___ Jesus' mother | Q. Holy Spirit |
| ___ Another name for the three Kings | R. Immanuel |
| ___ Announced His birth to the shepherds | S. East |



**A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU
ALL!**

