



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018

Fort Street Presbyterian Church

631 W. Fort Street

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone (313) 961-4533

www.fortstreet.org

www.facebook.com/fortstreet

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 23, 2018

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Selections for the Season Gedike, Handel, Marks, Brady
Sophia and Nora Mason, pianists, with assistance from Jesse Mason

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. 22:20, Rom 16:25-27

Eric Lange

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

To God be the glory forever! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of grace,
your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life
at the service of your will.

Prepare our hearts for his coming again;
keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service,
that we may receive the coming of his kingdom
for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all,
who lives and reigns with you

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come,

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son,

And name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

Canon 1

Em - man - u - el comes! Our Sav - ior is near!

2
This can - dle now burns with a mes - sage so clear:

3
Em - man - u - el comes! Our Sav - ior is near!

4
God's King - dom is com - ing, God's King - dom is here!

*HYMN 99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
 our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
 Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.
 In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE SONG 591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we too should forgive one another. Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(Exchange signs of Christ's peace with those worshipping with you.)

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON ONE

Zephaniah 3:14-20

(p. 826 in Pew Bibles)

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

SOLO

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

*O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in the manger!
Blessed is Mary, who was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

LESSON TWO

Luke 1:39-45

(p. 53 in Pew Bibles)

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

SERMON

“Rejoice with Singing”

Anne Lange

*HYMN 434

Restore in Us, O God

BAYLOR

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Microphone Available

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERTORY

What Child Is This?

Thomas Hewitt Jones

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds worship and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him praise, the Babe, the Son of Mary. Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the Cross be born for me, for you. Hail! Hail the Word Made Flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary. So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him! The King of Kings salvation brings: let loving hearts enthrone him! Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby. Joy! Joy! For Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*RESPONSE 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

WE ARE SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM THE WORD

*HYMN 138

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

WHITE ROSETTES

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

Soloist

Dorothy Duensing

Sound Tech

Tom Marshall

Worship Coordinator

Beth Brown

About the music: The music for the lighting of the Advent candle is from *Emmanuel Comes*, an Advent liturgy with music by James Biery and texts by Marilyn Biery: Copyright © 2005 Birnamwood Publications, used with permission. The solo by Morten Lauridsen is his 1999 arrangement of his original choral work, premiered in 1994. Lauridsen is Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music.

This year, we are inviting participants from different programs in the church to light advent candles. In each case, we connect the hope and spirit of these programs to the Advent hope of our faith. We are grateful for the Fort Street Choir for lighting the Advent candle of Joy this week.

Ushers are available to provide assistance with particular needs:

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

This Week's Announcements

There will be a meeting of the congregation today, December 23rd, 2018, immediately following worship, to receive the report of the Nominating Committee for the Elder and Deacon nominees for the Class of 2021. No other business may be discussed at the meeting.

Pledge for 2019 Stewardship

Pledges of giving are now being received for the 2019 year. We are reflecting on the gifts we have to share in ministry. Please prayerfully consider what gift you have to share in and through Fort Street in the new year. Pledge cards are available in the narthex, and you can drop your pledge card in the offering plate during worship. You can pledge on the church website, fortstreet.org, or by emailing Alison Grosch your pledge at om@fortstreet.org.

Christmas Eve at Fort Street

7:00pm - Prelude

7:30pm - Service begins

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On **Sunday, December 30th**, we will welcome Michael Barconey as our guest preacher as our pastors are on vacation. There will be no Fifth Sunday potluck that day.

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Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, December 24

Tuesday, December 25

Monday, December 31

Tuesday, January 1

Christmas Joy Offering

Today, and on Christmas Eve, you can use the cards in the pews to give to the Christmas Joy Offering. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic schools and colleges.

FSPC Prayer List

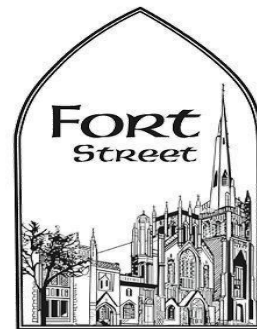
Lynne Bieniek, Vicki Crumpton, the Galloway family, Melanie, Jim and Ella Fenton, the family of Mia Hart, Motoko Huthwaite, Alex Kade, Robert Ponder, the family of Marcus Turner, Tom Turner

Prayers for Military Loved Ones

Jonathan Heyler USN; Ssgt Shanell Howard USAF; Maj. Michael Kurtti USAF; Capt. Theo Moran USAF; Lt. Mark Webster USAF

FSPC Mission Statement

Fort Street Presbyterian Church is an oasis in an urban environment, building a caring Christian community where diversity is celebrated and programs are developed 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 Jesus Christ.



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.

Fort Street Staff

Church General Staff

Alison Grosch | Operations Manager

Jerry Johnson | Building Engineer

Parking and Custodial Staff

Darryl Reynolds

Richard Echols

Frank Hickey

Music at Fort Street

Marilyn Biery | Director / Organist

Mike Mitchell | Interim Chorale Conductor

Donlin Center & Christian Education

Judith Sheldon | Director

Karen Wright | Donlin Staff

Lakita Wyatt | Donlin Staff

Fort Street Open Door

Trish Hubbell | Director

Sheila Williams | Floor Coordinator

James Anderson | Security

Herman Hall | Custodian

Damien Hines | Custodian

Jewell Everette | Cook

SCSEP Participants

Brenda Boykin

Gleatus Jones

Mary McCray

Weddings at Fort Street

Loretta Stanton | Coordinator

Vanessa Carthron | Assistant

Austin Brantley | Assistant

Darryl Fowler | Assistant

Interim Co-Pastors: Anne and Eric Lange • pastor@fortstreet.org

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

Music Director Emeritus: Edward Kingins