

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 23, 2007

4th Sunday of Advent

*This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child.*
- Madeleine L'Engle

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul Simpson Duke

VOLUNTARY

I wonder as I wander - arr. M. Peterson
Johnson Memorial Handbells; Charise Hastings, flute

*INVOCATION

Marissa Alaniz

*HYMN 202

People, look east *BESANÇON*

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 146

Leader: Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in their Lord, their God,

People: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

Leader: who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

People: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

Leader: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

People: The Lord watches over the sojourners, and upholds the widow and the orphan; but the Lord brings the way of the wicked to ruin.

Leader: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

All: Praise the Lord!

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Noelle Beverly & Gareth Phillips

Congregational Response:

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46b-55

Stacey Simpson Duke

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Canticle of the Turning - *Star of the Country Down*
Lyrics by Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn. So from east to west shall my name be blest.

Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. Refrain.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. Refrain.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound. 'Til the spear and rod can be crush by God, who is turning the world around. Refrain.

Sung by Stacey Simpson Duke and Carole Ott

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Lord's Prayer - "debts")

Paul Simpson Duke

EPISTLE READING

James 5:7-10

Marissa Alaniz

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus loves the little children
Tiny Grace Notes

- Traditional

TIME AS CHILDREN

Sue Ellen Glover

*HYMN 221

In the bleak midwinter

CRANHAM

(Preschool - 3rd grade may leave for Children's Worship at this time.)

SERMON

The Turning

Stacey Simpson Duke

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING OF GIFTS *Angelus ad Virginem* - *arr. D. Willcocks*

Gabriel to Mary came and entered at her dwelling, With his salutation glad her maiden fears
dispelling, "Fear not, O favored one this night!

God, Lord of earth and heaven's height, Thy very son, shall soon be born in pureness, the Savior of
mankind. He is the gate of heaven bright, the sinners' healer kind."

"How could I a mother be that am to man a stranger? How should I my strong resolve, my solemn
vows endanger?" "Power from the Holy Ghost on high shall bring to pass this mystery.

Then have no fear: Be of good cheer, believing that still thy chastity In God's almighty keeping shall
all unsullied be."

Then to him the maid replied, with noble mien supernal! "Lo! the humble handmaid I of God the
Lord eternal! With thee, bright messenger of heav'n, by whom this wondrous news is giv'n, I well
agree and long to see fulfilled thy gracious prophecy. As God my Lord doth will it, so be it unto me!"

Favored woman of mankind, who bring'st of gifts the rarest, Peace to angels and to men, when Christ
the Lord thou bearest! Do thou, fair maid, bring forth thy son, for us our long'd redemption Himself to
win , and from our sin release us; his succour for to give, That when we hence are taken, we too in
heav'n may live.

Bonnie Kidd, soprano

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN 218** It came upon the midnight clear *CAROL*

BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY Noël "Accourez Pastoureaux" - *Henri Busser*

* If you are able, please stand

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of those no longer here.
~ The Floyd family ~*

*The Prayer Concern Cards are for your use. If you have a prayer concern in
addition to those listed here, please fill out a card and pass it to the end of the aisle
during the first hymn. We pray for Liz Baker, Conrad Juchartz, John Moyer,
Bonnie Jensen, Lloyd Crabtree, Justin Kerns, Marian Carter, Tim Studer, Ruth
Scott, Paul Wing, Mildred MacGregor, and Marjorie Shannon.*

Announcements

We warmly welcome all those who have come to worship with us today! Everyone is invited to join the events listed in this insert. Immediately following the service, please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

Poinsettias have been given by	in honor of:
The Alaniz Family	Our military serving in Iraq and elsewhere in the world
The Fortune-Gallagher Family	Jenny Van Dorn; Mary Gallagher
Andrea Juchartz, Chris, Elizabeth & Charlotte Durham	Mervyn & Conrad Juchartz
David Robbins	Joyce Arn
Lynn Suits	Jim & Jerry Suits, Ruth & Bill Kerr
Jim, Ethan & Emily Wright	Margarete & James Wright

<p>TODAY, December 23</p> <p>Monday, Dec. 24</p> <p>Tuesday, Dec. 25</p> <p>Sunday, Dec. 30</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group (Room 108)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. - Children's Choirs Carol Sing (Sanctuary)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. - Festival of Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Merry Christmas! (Offices Closed)</i></p> <p>2:30 p.m. - Vespers (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Prayer Group (Room 108)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p>
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Poinsettias have been given by	in memory of:
The Brewer Family	Helen Brewer; Russell Brewer; Esther Moore
Lloyd & Lois Crabtree	George Wendell Crabtree
The Doman Family	Christine, Carl & David Doman
Larry & Linda Dicks	Mervin Mack & Joyce McKeachie Doerner
Joan Farrell	Ruth Harris
Jim & Elizabeth Gold	Roy & Vinita Martin
James, Elizabeth, Rachel & David Gold	John C. Floyd, Jr.
His cousins	Randolph Forbes Reed
Beverly Inbody	Orrin & Doris Inbody
Johanna Johnson	Robert Johnson
Iris Martin	All my loved ones
Nancy Rhodes & Ethan Wright	Mary West Stroh
Omer Robbins, Jr.	Elsie I. Robbins
Nancy Rushton	George & Velda Sanders
Thomas Scott	Marie Johnson & Robert P. Scott
The White Family	Gladys & Frank Eggleton
Rick & Melissa Whittington, Jim & Elizabeth Gold	Claire Hodge

Carol Sing - Today

All ages are invited to join us today in the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. for a Carol Sing led by the Jr. Choir with additional music by the Grace Notes. As "admission price" the children appreciate your donation to their offering to raise scholarships for children to attend our Sister Church's school in Nandasmo, Nicaragua.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Please plan to attend "A Festival of Lesson and Carols" at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24. Based upon the annual presentation at King's College, Cambridge. Readings from the Christmas Story are alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols. Childcare will be offered for children 5 years old and younger. (In order to adequately prepare with enough caregivers, please let Sue Ellen know ahead of time if your family or guests will need childcare.) Invitations for your friends and neighbors are available at the Information Counter.

Vespers - Christmas Day

Our Vespers ministry will share food, friendship, and Christmas music with some of our community's homeless and poor on Christmas Day. There will be appetizers and a movie beginning at 2:30. The meal will be served at 4:00 or 4:30, and Christmas carols and songs will follow. The event is planned and led by members of the Vineyard church, but members of our own church family are encouraged to join in the sharing of kindness, faith, and friendship with the poor.

** *Please take your poinsettias home after the service tomorrow evening.* **

Nursery

for infants, toddlers and preschoolers - Today the nursery will stay open from 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., providing childcare for the preschoolers who do not wish to attend the carol sing. For the remainder of the month, the nursery will close at 11:30 a.m.

Children and Youth Christian Education

(There are no Church School classes for the remainder of December due to special events and Christmas holidays):

All children are welcome to worship with their families. After the Time as Children portion of the worship service, preschoolers may go to the nursery for childcare until worship is complete and children in Kindergarten – 3rd grade are invited to Children's Worship. Parents should pick up their children from Children's Worship by 11:15.

Children's Music and Arts Ministry

Will resume Sunday, January 6.

Adult Christian Education (Sundays, 11:30 – 12:30)

Classes will resume Sunday, January 6.

Other Adult Learning Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study (Memorial Lounge, 1:30-2:30 p.m.)
Rev. Paul Simpson Duke leads a study of the Gospel of John, chapters 12-21. This group will reconvene January 9.

December 12 Newsletter

If you opted to pick up your newsletter, your copy of the latest edition is available at the Information Counter or in any of the three brochure racks.

RMMO Offering 2007:

"Remember with Love, Give with Gratitude"

"In 2006, Sophia Stephenson of Delaware, Ohio, along with over 3,000 other retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses, received a Thank You check from the RMMO Offering. Sophia (86), the widow of Rev. James Stephenson, wrote: 'I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the Thank You check. I had a lot of medical expenses this year and the check has helped me pay some bills. God bless you.'"

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering 2007 will be received throughout the month of December. Envelopes can be found at the end of each pew. Please give generously.

Calendar Sale

Once more, the children and youth church school classes are selling *God's Creation Calendars* to raise funds for school scholarships for the children in Nandasmo. These heavyweight and beautifully photographed calendars include a scripture verse for inspiration. At \$7 they are great gifts! The children will sell them before and after worship, or you may call Sue Ellen and we will mail you a calendar (or two or three)!

Christmas-themed Storybooks

The Board of Christian Education's Family Resource Center has many Christmas-themed storybooks available for borrowing. They are located on a table in the classroom wing (middle level) and all you have to do is check out each book on the clipboard. Find time this season to curl up with your child or grandchild and enjoy the Christmas story.

Pavilion Status

This is a reminder to send in your monies or pledges to help pay for the pavilion. The desire was to complete construction this fall. The congregation has supported the pavilion by a 3 to 1 margin, the building permit is ready to be picked up, a contractor is on board and the appeal for FBC volunteer labor has gone out. The Executive Council has decided that a minimum of \$10,000 needs to be raised first before we can start construction so please send in your contributions.

~ Homelessness Task Force & Mission Action Board

Texts for next Sunday, December 30:

Isaiah 63:7-9 · Psalm 148 · Hebrews 2:10-18 · Matthew 2:13-23