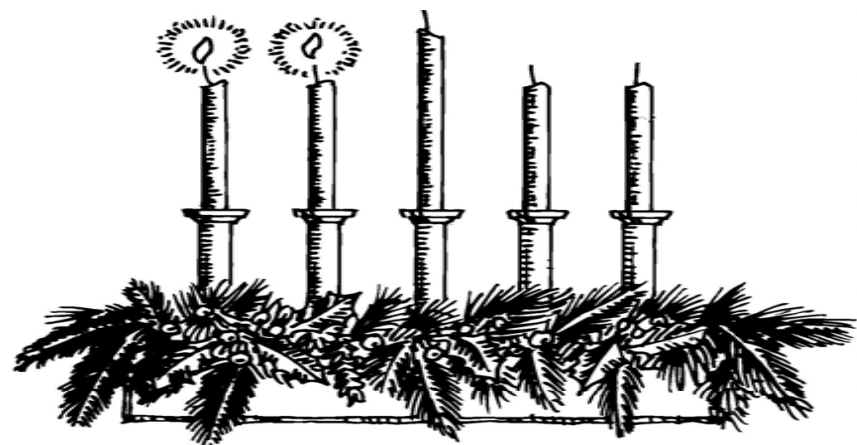


Highland Park United Methodist Church



Second Sunday
OF ADVENT

THE COMMUNITY IN WORSHIP

December 8, 2013

PRESERVICE MUSIC Piano Duet
Medley of Carols

A TIME FOR GATHERING AND FELLOWSHIP

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE
(Please register your attendance on the pad located at the end of the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE Organist
Sing We Now of Christmas (French Carol)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

A TIME FOR ADORATION

CHORAL INTROIT *Watching and Waiting*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is God's due time, not our immediate now,
God's perfect timing, not our impatience.
God's timetable, not our schedule,
God's day of grace, not our days of plans and activities.
God's celebrations, not our human-made festivities.
God's delivery date, not our predictions
God's due time not our demanded
Advent reminds us that all time is God's time
In due time, Love is born in our midst. Until then, we wait.
Until then, we anticipate. Until then, we hope. Until then, we worship

*HYMN OF ADVENTUMH 211
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH..... UMH 883
A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

A TIME TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE McClain Robinson

UNISON PRAYER

Lord of Peace, we await your coming with great expectation. Our lives are marked by peace, even when our circumstance might prove to the contrary. May we bring reconciliation and Sabbath rest to others this Advent season. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE TFWS 2090
Light the Advent Candle (verse 2)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

A TIME FOR CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Birther of Our Lives, in this time of preparing, we struggle to make time for your coming. When there are presents to get, we forget your presence among us. With "so much" to do, we forget the mystery of your Being and the miracle of our being avenues of your grace. Slow us down. Loosen us up. Let us laugh at ourselves more freely and love each other more generously. In the midst of the tinsel and the bustle, help us to see the twinkling joy. In the name of the One Whose Being Blesses Humanity. Amen!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

A TIME FOR PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC.....*Gesu Bambino* by Pietro A. Yon
Jerry Davis, soloist
Karley Estes, cello; Claudia Mornhinweg, piano

A PERIOD OF SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CENTERING HYMN.....UMH 215
To A Maid Engaged To Joseph

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON*Sacred People!*

A TIME FOR GIVING OF OURSELVES

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Organist/Pianist
Cradle Song by William J. Kirkpatrick

*DOXOLOGY..... UMH 94
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, what can we bring to your altar that you don't already have? What can we give that you yourself cannot create? Today we bring the one thing you desire which is our hearts. And as we do, we bring these gifts, as inadequate as they are, to you as a sign of our love for you. We ask your blessing upon them that they be used in the service of Christ. Amen.

A TIME FOR GOD'S PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 196
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*GREET ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN PEACE

A TIME FOR BEING SENT FORTH

*SENDING FORTH

Today we have come into this sacred space to worship God.
And we stand in the midst of a special people.
For all people are sacred because they have been created by God.
We are reminded that Jesus came into our world to save all of humanity, not just those like us.
Like Joseph and Mary, choose to serve God with all that you are.
For we are the instruments of peace that Christ is using to change our world. Amen.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION front of hymnal
May the Lord Be With You

We invite you to be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE Piano Duet
Caroling, Caroling arr: by Gilber Martin

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*indicates congregation standing

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests. We are glad you came. Please sign the register in the pew to let us know you attended. We look forward to having you worship with us again soon.

This Week at Highland Park

TODAY — December 8

- Second Sunday of Advent
 - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 - 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Luncheon
 - 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

TUESDAY — December 10

- Newsletter Folding
 - 6:00 p.m. Stillwater Travel Club
 - 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY — December 11

- 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY — December 12

- 7:00 a.m. Grape Jelly Gang
- 12:00 p.m. Stillwater Noon Lions Club
- 3:30 p.m. Christmas Piano Recital

SATURDAY — December 14

- 9:00 a.m. Saturday Fellowship Circle
- 10:00 a.m. HPUMC Christmas Store
- 10:30 a.m. UMW Executive Team meeting

NEXT SUNDAY — December 15

- Third Sunday of Advent
 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (third class of "*Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*" for adults in fellowship hall)
 - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 - 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE USHER STAND
- CHILDREN'S BULLETINS (AGES 3-6 AND 7-12) ARE AVAILABLE
- INDIVIDUAL LISTENING DEVICES FOR HEARING ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE

Words on Worship

Today is the **Second Sunday of Advent**. The liturgical color for this season is **purple**.

Our theme for this Advent/Christmas season is *Sacred* and today we focus on sacred people. The stories of Mary and Joseph—two seemingly ordinary people—and their willingness to answer the call of God inspires us this week to see our own walk upon this earth as a call to be sacred people who usher in the presence of love. It also invites us to see others as sacred, full of the potential to be messengers in our lives.

God among us

The claim that Christianity makes for Christmas is that at a particular time and place God came to be with us himself. When Quirinius was governor of Syria, in a town called Bethlehem, a child was born who, beyond the power of anyone to account for, was the high and lofty One made low and helpless. The One who inhabits eternity comes to dwell in time. The One whom none can look upon and live is delivered in a stable under the soft, indifferent gaze of cattle. The Father of all mercies puts himself at our mercy. —Frederick Buechner

www.newsletternewsletter.com

PERSONS LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER — Rev. Jim Jones
LITURGIST— Karley Estus
ORGANIST/PIANIST— Claudia Mornhinweg
CHOIR DIRECTOR/PIANIST — Gayla Foster
GREETERS — Linda and Ray Ely
ACOLYTES — Joey Wayman and Jacob Stine

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

- Call to Worship adapted from the poem "In Due Time" by Frances Ballantyne
- Lighting of the Advent Candles: by Lisa Kropinak, www.gbod.org
- Prayer of Confession by Priscilla L. Denham and Maren C. Tirabassi from *Before the Amen*.

Highland Park United Methodist Church

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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Thoughts for the Day

The Light of the World

Early Christians celebrated both Jesus' birth and baptism on Epiphany, January 6. Only in the fourth century did Roman Christians appropriate a pagan festival to celebrate what we now call Christmas — a contraction of "Christ Mass."

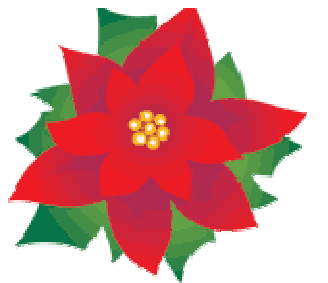
But the origin of when we celebrate Jesus' birth doesn't detract from the day's holiness. In fact, God has *always* transformed things of the world to serve his purposes and show his glory.

The festival honoring the "Unconquered Sun," held on what was then considered the winter solstice, was deemed the perfect time to praise the "Sun of Righteousness" (a prophetic name for Christ; see Malachi 4:2).

By claiming this day as our own, Christians profess that earthly darkness — winter's seasonal darkness and the darkness in our hearts and lives — is brightened not by a heavenly body that will one day cease to shine but by Jesus, the *real* unconquered and unconquerable Light of the World.

Christian Symbol

Poinsettias



This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of a legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

Home for
Christmas
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship



More people are willing to accept an invitation to church on Christmas Eve than any other time of the year. Make it a point this year to invite someone to church. If you have invited them before, invite them again, and again, and again.