

St. Timothys United Methodist Church
3220 Terrace Drive
319-266-0464
www.sttims-umc.org

December 19, 2010 – 10:15 am
4th Sunday in Advent

Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available.
A nursery is provided for children who have not entered First Grade.
Ask an usher to help you.

Gathering

Prelude "The First Noel" – arr. Clark Folke Ensemble
(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit,
the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

Greeting and Welcome Rev. Linda Butler

***Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle**

One: The season has ripened and the waiting is all but over.

All: God is with us. God is for us.

One: Our hearts are often empty but our hearts yearn to be full.

All: God is with us. God is for us.

One: "Yes" can be our prayer.

"Yes" can be our way of life.

All: God is with us. God is for us. Thanks be to God!

One: Dear God, today we light a candle for love in our world

All: May it burn brightly and warmly in our hearts

One: Enflamed by your affirming love, we gather, O God,
willing to be stilled, yet willing to be moved.

We come, so our lives might continue to be enlarged
by you in greater fullness, kindness, and joy for the
living.

***Opening Song** *Tune of "Away in a Manger"* Red hymnal, 217
Light four Advent candles and feel all around
The love that is growing and soon will surround.
Light four Advent candles and wait for the morn
When new birth will happen and light will be born.

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God with us

Unison Prayer

Advent God, you speak to us when we are awake and when we are asleep. You speak when we are listening and when we are busy with other things. Help us to pay attention to you as did Joseph and Mary, and to be trusting and faithful. May we continue to see your word come alive in our world. Amen.

Praying

Call to Prayer

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Tune: Red hymnal, 211
***"O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,
make strong the weak and heal the human race;
The hungry feed, the needy clothe,
that by example we will learn to love.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."***

Words by Cynthia A. Douglas, From Alternatives for Simple Living: 800-821-6153.

Sharing Joys and Concerns (Please share your name before your prayer request)

(After each joy or concern, we sing, "***O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace.***")

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen. Parker J. Palmer

*Passing the Peace

Listening to the Word

The Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 7:10-16

Pew Bible, 636

A Time for Children

"Joseph's Dream"

(Sing "*Where Children Belong*," 2233 in the Black hymnal, as the children come forward.)

Anthem

"*Silent Night*" – arr. Clark

Folke Ensemble

The Christian Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible, 1

Scripture Song

"*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*"

Red hymnal, 218(vs.1-2)

Sermon

"God With Us"

Rev. Linda M. Butler

Sermon Response

"*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*"

Red hymnal, 218(vs.3-4)

Responding to the Word

Announcements and Opportunities (Please share your name before your announcement.)

Offertory Sentence

"I keep wondering how Isaiah's 'Immanuel,' who is a sign of national liberation, gets shifted to Matthew's 'Emmanuel,' a sign for saving one from sin. This assures the reader that neither Joseph nor Mary engaged in sexual activity. I'm afraid this shows how a community can get lost in a morality play equating holiness with sexual abstinence rather than resisting national injustice."

Rev. Dr. Randall Bailey is the Andrew W. Mellon professor of Hebrew Bible at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Offertory

"*In Excelsis Deo*" – arr. Clark

Folke Ensemble

***Dedication Song**

Tune: "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*"

***"O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,
make strong the weak and heal the human race;
The hungry feed, the needy clothe,
that by example we will learn to love.***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."

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***Prayer of Dedication**

Unison

***Fearless and faithful God, in your yearning for a renewed world
we recognize and celebrate our own calling and participation. In the
receiving of these gifts, receive and honor that self-same desire
to be a renewing and affirming presence; people alive to your gifts of
hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.***

Going Forth

***Closing Song**

"*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*"

Black hymnal, 2098

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

"*Brightest and Best*" – arr. Clark

Folke Ensemble

"*In Excelsis Deo*" – arr. Clark

About the Projected Art Work

"*Creation*" by Claire Bird and Evelyn Longard

This fabric piece, created for Bridgewater United Church of Canada, is one of a set of three hangings made for the church and was created as a representation of the six days of creation. Spend time looking at the various layers of this work. Notice how the hand woven background depicts the changing light. The blue water and sky, while slightly different, have a sense of unity. The swirl of creation is ongoing and continuous in the hands of these artists who provide us with a glimpse of creation which spills out of the center. This work speaks to both the particularity and universality of the stories in this season. God is the sweeping presence, and God is also in the water spouting from the whale, in the fine blue mist that lingers above the waves, in stars, planets, and creatures. Where do you sense God's work unfolding in your world?

St. Tims Folke Ensemble

Director: Bob Abbott; **Flute:** Carol Morgan, Carole Yates; **Violin:** Ian Abbott, Owen Schupbach; **Autoharp:** Maelou Baxter, Linda Haack, Brenda Hoffman, Arlene Waterman; **Harmonica:** David Waterman; **Penny Whistle:** Ross Schupbach; **Dulcimer:** Melissa Clarke, Janet Krebs; **Banjo:** Jay Agness; **Guitar:** Dave Latta, Tony Reid; **Percussion:** Darline Balm-Demmel, Greg Cooper, Ross Schupbach; **Bass Violin:** Alyssa Kilbourn

* = The Congregation is invited to stand
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