

Sunday
December 24, 2017
10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor Greg

We are alive in Christ.
We love God,
we care for one another,
and we help people here
and around the world.



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Plain print indicates worship leader.
Bold print indicates congregation.
**Indicates please stand as able.*

Prelude: *The Christmas Band*

Gather to Worship

Welcome

Ministry Opportunities

***Call to Worship**

In the beginning, the very beginning, before anything had been imagined or thought of, there was just one thought, and the thought was a word.

The Word!

It existed before it was spoken, before it was written, before it was printed, it just was.

The Word!

But words need a sound, and its sound was the sound of being, of becoming. The ancient prophets spoke about this first word. The very first sound ever made.

The sound of love when this Word became flesh!

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Holy One, on this fourth Sunday of Advent we remember the Word made flesh, the Incarnation, God and humanity joined as one. We do not claim to understand this mystery, but we do accept it, we believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, Your image, and that He fully reveals You to us.

Lord, we are Your humble creations, sons and daughters gathered in this place to offer You our worship and praise, but more than that we come to offer our very selves, all that we are, all that You have made us to be. Like Jesus we want to be fully human, so we seek to be more like Him, to be more open to You and to be filled with Your Holy Spirit, that we might follow in Your way.

Lord, we are sorry that we have not always acted like Your sons and daughters, we have been selfish and strayed from the path — forgive us.

Lord, we are sorry that we have not always been beacons of light in a world of darkness — forgive us.

Lord, restore us into full relationship as Your sons and daughters, may we know and accept Your forgiveness that is so freely offered and help us to be all that we can be, all that we were created to be.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

***Hymn: #246** Joy to the World

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle ~ Read Family

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

Advent means "coming". We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined (Isaiah 9:2).

Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

***Scripture Lesson:** John 1:1-18

Because this is the sacred story of our Lord Jesus Christ, please do Him the honor of standing as able for the reading of the Gospel.

Children's Time: Joanne Culver

Choir Anthem: Mary, Did You Know?

Sermon: "Unbroken Words: Word of Flesh"

***Hymn: #230** O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1, 2)

Praying for Others and for Ourselves

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory: Hodie (Today Christ is Born)

***Doxology: #94** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Word became flesh and freely offered Himself for us. O God, receive our offerings given freely by us; take them and use them for the worldwide body of Christ. May they be a symbol of all that we offer this day and always. Amen.


***Hymn: #245** The First Noel (verses 1, 2)

***Blessing**

***Depart to Serve**

Coming up next Sunday, December 31: Sermon Series: Unbroken Words — "Word of Wilderness" John 1:19-34. We will also transition into the new year with Holy Communion.

Recessional: The Christmas Band



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

For Cheer and Hello	
Liz Anderson	Beverly Nimmo
Mary Evelyn Bell	Robert & Carmen Parsons
David Bretz	Char Rice
Alice Dibble	Marv & Kitty Starbuck
Barb Griner	Al Thomas
Pat McClelland	Mina Willett
Iris McGahan	

Prayer for Family and Friends

Praises to God for the Berndt family! Nathan Preston Berndt was born Dec. 13, weighing 7 lb, 10 oz. Baby and mom are healthy and doing well.

Nick Barrett (Phyllis Barrett's brother-in-law) has cancer that is spreading in his body.

Nana Bradfield is in hospice care. Prayers are needed for the family.

Jack and Cynda Buckallew are in California. Their daughter-in-law and grandkids are sick with a virus. Prayers for all to be healthy.

Kelly Elnick (Holly Turner's friend) is battling stage 4 cancer. Please remember her husband and children as well.

Mary Morgan (Laverne Swinehart's friend) is dealing with severe weight loss after a fall.

Cara Swinehart is having complications after surgery.

Tom Aitken will have surgery January 4 at U of M in Ann Arbor.

Phillip Arnold (Linda Cleveland's brother) is recovering from back surgery.

Eloise Emmert is recovering from bilateral sacrum fractures.

Christy Hanes (Michael and Lori Tichvon's daughter) needs guidance, support, and care with current and future living arrangements and life decisions.

Sue and Joe Hayes' niece has an infection in her face and neck from wisdom teeth extraction. Delber Jackson (Andrea Read's friend) is battling cancer.

Denny Osterhouse (Jody Tuinier's step-dad) fell at the nursing home and broke his hip. He may need surgery.

Nate and Sara Pfeil are praying for a safe and healthy delivery of their baby girl.

Larry and LaVon Rolfe

Beth Smith is recovering from surgery.

Arden and Penny Sult and family at the passing of Arden's mom, Bethel Sult

Char Taylor and family (friends of Bob and Nancy Harper and Gordon and Bonnie Oswald) as her husband, Dave, passed away

Sarah's (Vera Walker's niece) daughter lost her husband at age 38, and her other daughter lost a baby.

Sandy Whiteman (Mark and Michelle Harrison's friend) is struggling with stage 3 lung cancer.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6

Prayers for safe travels for all snowbirds

Bless Kalamazoo's homeless and the disciples who care for them.

In Service to Our Country

Kohler, Matthew L.
USS Harry S Truman CVN75
Unit 100255 Box #3137
FPO 2E 09524

Jeff Kudary

SFC Miller, Ryan
249th En (Prime Power)
APO AE 09333
Al Asad Airbase, Iraq

Walker Polsinelli

Tyler Smith

Richie Steinacker
8429 Shallow Creek Rd
Ft Worth TX 76179

Geoff White
5112 Hickory Ln
Klamath Falls OR 97601

This Week's Celebrations

<u>Birthdays</u>		
12/24	Bruce Graves	12/29 William Heikes
	Elton Lang	Kellie Hiemstra
12/25	Steve Hambright	Scott Smola
	Tom Simpson	12/30 Drake Dibble
	Dorothy Smith	Nathaniel Penning
12/26	Walker Polsinelli	<u>Anniversaries</u>
12/27	Zachary Griffin	12/28 Todd & Julie Griffin



Today's acolytes are
Briar Luegge and Ella Luegge

Dec. 17 attendance:
Worship 170, Sunday School 42





Help is needed at the Welcome Center

We need your help to serve at our Welcome Center. This is only a monthly commitment. You will arrive a half hour before the service to welcome people as they arrive for worship and answer any questions.

Karen will be calling to recruit volunteers in early December. There is also a clipboard at the Welcome Center to sign up. If you have any questions, please call Karen Simpson (269-870-0113).

Coffee hour

If you would like to help out with coffee hour goodies, it's simple. Drop off 4 to 6 dozen cookies or combination of crackers/cheese, grapes, pretzels, etc., by 9:00 on Sunday. Or prior to Sunday, leave in the old kitchen marked coffee hour (there is a refrigerator and freezer for this purpose).

The coffee and juices are provided and set up by Member Care. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Calendar

Today - Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. PIT Crew in the Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary
 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 - Merry Christmas

Preschool and offices closed

Tuesday, December 26

Preschool closed

6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC

Wednesday, December 27

Preschool closed

6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC

Thursday, December 28

Preschool closed

Friday, December 29 - Pastor's Day Off

Preschool closed

10:00 a.m. Knit & Stitch 2gether in Room 219

Saturday, December 30

no activities are scheduled

Coming Events

Tuesday, January 2

7:00 p.m. Trustees meeting in the Library

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due by 2:00 on Tuesday, January 2

Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

Dec. 24: Marshall Linebaugh

Dec. 31: Joe and Betty Gruber

