

December 23, 2018

10:00 am

Prelude

Let us turn our hearts and minds to a time of silent reflection and prayer.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Jim and Linda Haling

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God has done great things for us!

ALL: God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

ONE: Holy is God's name!

ALL: God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

ONE: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

ALL: God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

*Hymn of Praise

Celebration Hymnal # 277

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the amazing news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

.Anthem

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:6-7

New Testament Lesson

Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

*Gloria Patri

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, Amen.

Sermon

"Almost Here, Our Day of Celebration!"

Rev. William Kren

Hymn of Reflection

"What Child Is This?"

Celebration Hymnal # 281

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 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.

Choral Response

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

*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.

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn of Going Forth

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Celebration Hymnal No. 251

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

*Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

New Testament Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ²(This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Deborah Wronowski Hutfloetz, mother to Emily Hutfloetz Brady, teacher at Henry Ford Elementary and Matthew Hutfloetz, B.O.S. at Bryant Middle School, passed away on Monday, December 17, 2018.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm with the Memorial Service at 11:30 am at:

Joy Baptist Church
37055 Joy Road
Westland, MI 48180

A luncheon will follow after the Service.

Condolences may be sent to:

Emily Brady
23028 Lodge Lane
Dearborn, MI 48128

SERMONNOTES

Dearborn Congregational Church
Rev. William Kren, Pastor
December 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Almost Here – Our Day of Celebration!

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God!” ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” ³⁴Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” ³⁵The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷For the word of God will never fail.” ³⁸Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

1. CELEBRATION FOR THE MOTHER (Luke 1:28-30)

2. CELEBRATION FOR THE SAVIOR (Luke 1:30-33)

3. CELEBRATION FOR THE PLAN (Luke 1:35-38)

POINSETTIAS
DECEMBER 23, 2018

Rufus and Marilyn Beardsley

Cheryl and Tom Brown In memory of our parents

Teresa Curless In memory of my parents

Polly Fitzpatrick In memory of Mike

Dave and Tammy Jabtecki Fathers and mother-in-law

Bill and Sue Kren

Sue MacKenzie In honor of Pastor Bill

Carol and Mac McAdams John and Celia Corso, Frank and Amelia

McAdam

John Peters Father and Mother, Charles and Joanne

Ann Saadah In memory of Bev and Ray Traver and
Jim Carter

Kevin Schilbe In memory of John Schilbe

Diana Schilbe In memory of Lee Schilbe

Elizabeth Schlaff In memory of Dean and Joan Elwart,
Thirza League and June Potter

Gail Wagonner In honor of Janet, Karen and Mary Elizabeth

Nancy Wolter In memory of Everett and Clara Wolter,
Parents