

From *An Old-Time Christmas* by Helen Steiner Rice & Virginia J. Ruehlmann, published by Fleming H. Revell, a division of Baker Book House Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, copyright 1997, page 13.

The Miracle of Christmas

Miracles are marvels that defy all explanation.

And Christmas is a miracle and not just a celebration.

For when the true significance of this so-called Christmas story

Penetrates the minds of men and transforms them with its glory,

Then only will rebellious man, so hate-torn with dissension,

Behold his adversaries with a broader new dimension.

For we can only live in peace when we learn to love each other

And accept all human beings with the compassion of a brother.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

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Music Director, Kyle Kelvington: kelvingtonk@gmail.com

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Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger: pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

Acolyte: Thank You!

Altar Flowers: Jim & Marcia Carsten
In loving memory of parents, James & Hazel Carsten.

Greeters: Everyone present today!

Ushers: Thank You!

PowerPoint: Thank You!

Liturgist: Kathie Richards

Fellowship: Team #2

Steeple Lighting: Thank You!

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847
www.pilgrimcf.org †



Sunday, December 10, 2017



<https://images.pexels.com/photos/356661/pexels-photo-356661.jpeg?h=350&auto=compress&cs=tinysrgb>

Finding God in Our Disappointments

Rev. Kirk Bruce

Mission Statement:

***God calls us to live our faith as disciples
Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ
In the community and the world.***

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People
Sunday, December 10, 2017 † Second Sunday of Advent

THE PRELUDE *A Stable Lamp is Lighted* David Hurd
*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *As With Gladness Men of Old* No. 119

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 40)
One: Hear the voice of God calling to us. This Christmas
All: The Lord promises us the valleys shall be raised up, and the mountains made low.
One: For all who put their trust in God, they shall find the way.
All: The Lord shall tend His flock like a shepherd, keeping us always close.
*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Kathie Richards
O Lord, when we wander, call our name and assure us you are near. When we are lost, reassure us again of your love. Like children we do not always know which way to turn, but you are always present. Guide us with your love. Hear us now as we pray together the prayer your son taught us, "Our Father . . ." [debt, debtors]
*THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Red Hymnal) *No. 116, Refrain*

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST
OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE The Subichin Family
THE CRADLE SONG *One Candle Is Lit (verse 2)* Parrott/Kirkpatrick
Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT & TOYS AROUND THE MANGER Marilyn Freeman
(Red Hymnal) Silent Night, Holy Night (verses 1 & 2) No. 138
(Red Hymnal) We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 & 2) No. 143
Faith Focus: 2nd Sunday of Advent – Tale of the Trees Marilyn Freeman

***all who are able may stand**

ANTHEM *Do You Hear What I Hear* Harry Simeone
Pilgrim Choir

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION
THE OFFERTORY *I Wonder As I Wander* John Jacob Niles
Taylor Stott, soprano
*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) *In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)* No. 128
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
CALL TO PRAYER (Black Hymnal) *Away in a Manger (verse 3)* No. 124
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.
THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE
*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* No. 107
(Verse 1 Everyone, Verse 2 Only Men, Verse 3 Only Choir, & Verse 4 Only Women)

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 29:10 - 14 (page 690) Kathie Richards
Matthew 1:18 - 25 (page 1)
SERMON Finding God in our Disappointments Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Bring A Torch, Jeannette Isabella* No. 124
*THE BENEDICTION
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (We invite you to join hands as we sing)
(Black Hymnal) *Go Tell It on the Mountain* No. 154, Refrain
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

POSTLUDE *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Traditional Polish

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 10, 2017 - Toys Around the Manger

- 9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team #2
- 11:30 a.m. Music Committee meeting, Rev. Greene Room
- 2:45 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501, Adult Library
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #169, Adult Library

Monday, December 11, 2017

- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #840, A.T.T.I.C.
- 6:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting, Adult Library

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library
- 6:30 - 8:15 p.m. Knit & Crochet, Rev. Green Room
- 7:00 p.m. Faith Formation meeting, Adult Library
- 8:00 p.m. Fellowship of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

- 2:15 - 9:30 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin & Cello Lessons, Adult Library, Children's Library, Nursery
- 6:00 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, December 14, 2017

- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack meeting, Social Hall
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room or Adult Library

Friday, December 15, 2017

Saturday, December 16, 2017

- 11:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Children's Library
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, December 17, 2017 - Wassail & Delights

- 9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team #3



SIGN-IN

There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.
 We joyfully welcome all visitors!
 Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
 Please join us again!
 We are so glad You are Worshipping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for:

A couple with financial issues.
 Linda healing for her hand.
 Don's health.
 Carl's healing from cancer.
 The world and all its people. May we all trust God and do his will.
 Grant us peace and love.
 A member trying to adjust to additional health issues and not give up on life.
 Chandler & his family for strength & patience with his cancer diagnosis & treatments.
 Our public servants, first responders and medical personnel.
 Continue prayers for Cousin Jeff's continued progress with healing.



THE ENTIRE MONTH OF DECEMBER . . .

You are invited to bring one canned good/non-perishable item to the church every time you enter the building. We have extended this invitation to all of the groups who use our building for meetings and gatherings. Just imagine how many hungry tummies we could fill! All of the canned goods can be placed in the Good Neighbors box located in the parking lot entry hallway.



FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH (FCL) needs . . .

The number of outside volunteers are down. We are having trouble meeting the needs of the 120 folks we feed every month. If you have time between 10 am and 2 pm on the second Saturday of the month, Come Join Us!



Thank you to everyone who donated a coat and jacket for the Free Community Lunch giveaway during lunch on December 9th.

A Note from the Treasurer . . .

As of: October 31, 2017 Income: \$133,000.00 Expenses: \$166,000.00 Difference: (\$33,000.00)
 John Richards



During past Christmas seasons, it's been my privilege to collect donations from the congregation as a gift to our staff. I would suggest that we do that again this year. It is our opportunity to thank them for all their hard work. This collective gift is one way to show our gratitude & appreciation.

I will be taking these donations through Sunday, December 17th. I can accept cash or check. If you use a check, please make it payable to me, John Richards, NOT to the church. I will turnover what I receive to Pastor Bruce who will distribute the gift to the staff. My thanks to you for your generosity and may you have a Merry Christmas.