

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Malachi 3:1 - 4 (page 841) Janis Morgan
Luke 1:68 - 79 (page 50)

SERMON Peace Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella No. 124

*THE BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE Believe Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri

Thank you for supporting Good Neighbors with donations of

scarves, mittens, gloves & hats

& gifts for all ages!

Thank You!

Thank You!

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 Staff

Pastor, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce:
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Acolyte: *Thank You!*
Altar Flowers: *In honor of our cherished gifts
of family & friends. The Gerstenberger's*

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*
Ushers: *Thank You!*

PowerPoint: *Cheryl Bruce*
Liturgist: *Janis Morgan*

Fellowship: *Thank You!*
Steeple Lighting: *David Kump*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847



Sunday, December 9, 2018



**Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People**

Sunday, December 9, 2018 † Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

THE PRELUDE Gesu Bambino Pietro Yon

SPECIAL MUSIC *What Child Is This?* 16th Century English Carol
Pilgrim's Hand Bells Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 132

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Baruch 5:1-9)

One: The time has come, God call us to put away our sadness and to receive His glory.

All: Let us put on the robe of righteousness that comes from our Lord.

One: Let God call us righteous peace, Godly glory.

All: May the Lord lead us with joy, with the mercy and righteousness that comes from Him.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Janis Morgan

We gather together in Your house O Lord, to be reminded of who we are and how we are called to love. May our hearts and minds be open to hearing and our hands and feet open to doing. Speak to us in this time of worship and guide us in our week that follows. 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 THE ADVENT CANDLE - *Peace* Sandra Cole & Travis Smith

***all who are able may stand**

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 with Pilgrim's Children Marilyn Freeman
O Little Town of Bethlehem Red Hymnal No. 134 - Verse One
Away in A Manger Red Hymnal No. 137 - Verses One & Two
Angels, From The Realms of Glory Red Hymnal No. 117 - Verses One & Two
We Three Kings of Orient Are Red Hymnal No. 143 - Verses One & Two
(While singing, please bring forward your gifts for Toys Around the Manger!)
Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come Red Hymnal No. 130 - Verses One & Two

SPECIAL MUSIC *Angel Tidings* Cynthia Dobrinski
Pilgrim's Hand Bells

CHILDREN'S FAITH FOCUS *Retelling the Story* Marilyn Freeman

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *Silent Night, Silent World* Arr. Sally Albrecht
and Jay Althouse

*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

ANTHEM *Noel Sing* Arr. Gerald Brown

***all who are able may stand**

SIGN-IN

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

Pray for:

Laurie that her chemo will not be needed after her December treatment.
Healing for Marilyn, Mary Anne, and Chris.
Gerry & wife Ann, suffering with cancer.
Laurie that her chemo will not be needed after her December treatment.
Healing for Marilyn and Mary Anne.
Gerry & wife Ann, suffering with cancer.
For the health of all as the flu season approaches and winter comes near.
Remember those in need, especially the elderly and the very young, and need help.
Healing prayers for a church members daughter.
Healing prayers for my grand-daughter.
Anita, a two year old, in Akron Children's Hospital for continued healing to burns on her hands & arms requiring multiple skin grafts.
A toddler who had a liver transplant & all the members who need healing physically, mentally, etc.
Diane, Kenneth's sister, that she gets better soon.
Jeff in the hospital with many medical problems.
Everyone effected by the hurricanes that have damaged property and lives.
The children separated from their parents at our border.
Our countries politicians and legal leaders to make the fair, unconditional decisions for all people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACME CASH BACK program continues through December 29th! **Save your receipts!**
Supports the Pilgrim Mission Trip Fund. **Place in the box in the Social Hall!**



December 16, 2018 - 3rd Sunday in Advent (Joy) - Cantata & Wassail
December 23, 2018 - 4th Sunday in Advent (Love) - Baptism of Camden Glenn
Tepper, son of Garrit & Kate Tepper and grandchild of Glen & Gail Tepper
December 24, 2018 - Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

December Mission Challenge ~ Advent Avalanche of Food!

Every time you enter Pilgrim during December, bring **ONE** canned or non-perishable food item to the Good Neighbors box located by the parking lot entrance. When the box is full, the items will be stacked on the Social Hall stage.
Our hope is to have the stage full of canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, tuna, peanut butter, laundry soap, diapers, toilet paper, you get the idea.
All of the items received will be taken to Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors in early January when the Good Neighbors cupboards are typically bare.
Only food items and Christmas gifts for all ages will be accepted until January 2019.
The December Spire has suggestions on page 2 to help you with a shopping list.



CALENDAR

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Toys Around the Manger & Children's Pageant - Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Free Community Lunch, Social Hall
11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room
11:45 a.m. Stewardship 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 10, 2018

6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting, Adult Library

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Needle Work Group, Adult Library
8:00 p.m. Broad Highway Group AA, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Dance, Social Hall
2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Adult & Children's Libraries
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Christmas Show Rehearsal, Cuyahoga Falls High School

Thursday, December 13, 2018

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Rev. Greene Room
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #3186 meeting, Social Hall
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, December 14, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Christmas Show, Cuyahoga Falls High School

Saturday, December 15, 2018

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Akron Multi-District Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, Adult Library
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, Social Hall

Sunday, December 16, 2018 - Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Cantata, Kyle Kelvington, Music Director, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Wassail & Eggnogg, Social Hall
3:30 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #101, Adult Library

Monday, December 17, 2018

No Council meeting!

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

8:00 p.m. Broad Highway Group AA, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Adult & Children's Libraries

Thursday, December 20, 2018 - Staff Lunch at 12:00 noon at O'Charley's

Advent Two: Peace

Malachi 3:1-4 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Malachi:

The exact author is unknown as Malachi means “my messenger”. It was most likely written during the second half of the 5th century BCE during the rule of Persian King Darius I. This king had given the Jews permission to rebuild their temple which they did, but there loomed a great temptation to worship the heathen governor instead of their God. Malachi's message to the people was that God still loved them and they should “honor and respect the covenant relationship with God and with each other.”*

The people had lost their way by engaging in perjury, social injustices and misdeeds. Malachi is not too concerned with the rebuilding of the physical structure of the new temple, but is called to focus on “reforming the abuses in ritual and worship practices. Malachi's primary theme is Israel's covenant relationship with God. . .and each other. . .God is the maker and keeper of the covenant. . .(he) sees Israel as a chosen people dearly loved by God. . .God is the one who purifies the relationship for the sake of transformation.” *

“Messenger of the covenant” – ‘I will be your God and you will be my people’ is a recurrent Biblical message. God is continually cleansing, refining us to be God's people of faith. Being in covenant with God and with each other implies we are at peace with God and one another. God calls us to worship in the faith community to be purified, refined, and restored into a peaceful community of faith.

**CEB Storytellers Bible*, pg. 1543-44, 2017, Nashville

Activity:

In the social hall after worship you will have the opportunity to “clean, refine, transform” and ordinary rock into a reminder of God's peace. Peace that transforms us and our community into faithful people honoring our covenant with God and each other.

Using markers and or acrylic paints, write/draw/paint a word or a symbol on your rock that reminds you of God's presence in your life. There are small containers for you to take your rock home in so the paint can dry. Keep your rock in a visible place during the Advent season, or carry it with you in your pocket daily, as a reminder of your covenant with God. God's peace be with you.

