

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

R. Kurt Traugott, Pastor

Sarah Staebell, Organist

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*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

January 3, 2016

Second Sunday After Christmas

The Prelude

Ring of The Bell

Word of Greeting and Announcements

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Musical Meditation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: We gather wondering,

'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

People: We will find the Babe

in the laughter of children,

in the wisdom of grandparents.

Liturgist: We gather asking,

'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

People: We will find the Child

where the needy are gifted with hope,

where the oppressed are set free.

Liturgist: We gather wanting to know,

'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**People: We will find our Hope
where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

***The Carol**

"The First Noel"

#4-G

***The Prayer of Invocation - Unison**

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see Your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive Your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to You, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

The Carol

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#154

A Time With Young Christians

Child of God, your loving parent, learn to know whose child you are.

Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

The Collect - Unison

God of mystery and grace, whose revelation comes to those willing to hear and see and feel, send Your word, Your star, Your dreams, to confront us with the gospel of salvation, that we might respond with a radiance that is contagious to those around us and faithful in proclaiming Your praise. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever Amen.

Solo

"Give Me Wings"

The Reading of God's Word

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6 Page 690

Epistle Lesson Ephesians 3:1-12 Page 193

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Page 2

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

***The Carol** "We Three Kings of Orient Are" Page 14-G

The Homily *"Recognizing God"*

***The Carol** "As with Gladness Those of Old" #159

The Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Silent Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Response

The Giving of Our Gifts and Offerings

The Offertory

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

***The Prayer of Dedication - Unison**

As the magi presented costly gifts to the Child they dared to worship as Your special messenger, we would give our best through the church, which continues as Christ's body and the carrier of good news. Bless then these gifts and keep us open to signs of Your presence and responsive to Your call to follow Him. Amen

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Approach

Liturgist: Christ invites to this table all who confess faith in His promises and who intend to live as His people.

People: As God's forgiven and accepted people, let us approach this table in humility.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Liturgist: People of Advent, the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.

Liturgist: People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

People: We will sing our praises to the One who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Liturgist: In that first moment, You spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation dispelled the thick darkness of chaos. You whispered, and Your glory filled the skies. You sang, and the dust of the earth was shaped into your image, as you breathed life into us. We could have lived in grace and peace with you for as long as the sun endures, for as long as the moon hangs in the night sky, but we were tempted by the sweet taste of sin, and overwhelmed with temptation's wealth of cheap gifts and thrills. The prophets were sent to tell of Your gifts of joy and peace, but we listened to the world's news of success, power, achievement. Finally, in that dark time of despair, You sent Jesus, Your servant of salvation. Therefore, we will join our voices with the wise ones, as well as the foolish, of every time and place who forever sing of Your grace:

Holy, holy, holy, God of bright dawns!

All creation renders tributes of praise to You.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who saves the lives of the needy.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are You, God of redemption, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. Overwhelmed with compassion, He left the glory of heaven, to become a prisoner of sin, so we could be set free. Overwhelmed with hope, He entered death's house, to break its dark power

forever. Overwhelmed with love, He travelled another road, walking to Calvary, so we might run with joy into Your waiting arms. So, as we remember His birth, as we prepare to journey with Him this year, we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

**Christ came, the morning star of love;
Christ died, the night star of salvation;
Christ arose, the radiant star of resurrection;
Christ will come again, the constellation of hope.**

Holy One of stars and sinners, send down your Spirit of hope upon those gathered around this Table, and on the gifts of the bread and the cup, that they might make us your faithful and loving children. Feed us with the bread of hope, that when we leave, we will travel another road, to defend the weak, to speak for the voiceless, to assist those cast aside. Refresh us with the sweet nectar of grace, so we, overwhelmed with joy, would go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our midst; to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten; to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.

And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your Table, with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our sisters and brothers of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Prayer Of Our Savior - Singing

**Our Father, Which 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.**

The Communion (Grape juice in center of tray/Bread is gluten free)

The Blessing

The Prayer of Thanksgiving – Unison

Pour out upon us the spirit of Your love, O Lord

and unite the wills of those whom You have fed with

one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***The Carol** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

#160

***The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: As this new year commences and continues,
go in peace, love and care for one another in the
name of Christ. And may...

the light of God surround you,

the love of Jesus draw you closer to Himself,

and the power of the Spirit grow in you and fill
you with great joy.

People: Amen.

***The Benediction Response**

"Let There Be Peace On Earth

"Laminated Card In Pew Rack"

***The Postlude**