

Parma Greece United Church of Christ

R. Kurt Traugott, Pastor

Sarah Staebell, Organist

Roger Leighton, Moderator

*"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

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Prelude

Ring of The Bell

Word of Greeting and Announcements

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Musical Meditation

Call to Worship

Liturgist: With Hope, we have waited for the birth of the Christ-child;

People: We wait for Christ to be born in us today.

Liturgist: With Peace, we pray for the world, we pray for our communities;

People: The Prince of Peace reigns in our hearts.

Liturgist: With Joy, we expectantly prepare for the Good News of the Messiah;

People: Joyfully we celebrate that Christ is coming again.

Liturgist: With Love, we give selflessly, knowing God has given us the most wonderful gift;

People: God's love is in us, through the gift of Jesus the Christ.

Liturgist: In this time of worship,

People: May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shine forth from us to the world, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***The Hymn**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#116

Verses 1, 2, 6 & 7

***The Prayer of Invocation - Unison**

Loving Christ, we are waiting for You to come into our lives and our world in a new way. We have waited for so long. Help us to remember that we are called to join in Your work in this world. Guide us into the ways of peace. Call upon us to join in the work of Your justice and restoration in this world. As we prepare for Christmas, and sing the carols, and celebrate with joy, remind us that the work is not yet complete, but that You are coming again. We anticipate that day with awe and wonder as we seek to continue Your work until Your coming. Amen.

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

***An Act of Praise**

"Advent Gloria"

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son.
Glory be to God the Spirit, Great Jehovah Three in One.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Lighting the Advent Candle - Love

Liturgist: Love is the wick
that is central to the candle

**People: Love is the wick, given by God.
The flame that burns continually.**

Liturgist: Love is the wick
given by God that burns in the world.

**People: Love is the wick given by God
that burns in our hearts.**

Lighting the Fourth Candle

Liturgist: Let us pray:

All: Source of light, shine in our lives and in Your world with Your unending love. Through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Hymn

The Candle of Love

**The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a Child who would be
The One who would save us and set us all free.**

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

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of Your Son, so we wait for His coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

Liturgist: Listen now for the word of God

Micah 5:2-5a Page 865

Hebrews 10:5-10 Page 224

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.

Liturgist: The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Luke

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 1:39-55 Page 57

***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**

Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all Your children everywhere. Amen.

The Blessing of the Christmas Tree

***The Hymn**

"Joy to the World"

#132

***The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Let the hope, peace, joy and love of this Advent season fill your life. Love and care for one another in the name of Christ.

Go with the certain knowledge that God is with you.
The love of God bless you, the grace of Jesus Christ fill you,
and the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit be born in us all
as we wait with joy the day of the Lord's coming.

People: Amen.

***The Benediction Response "Like Shepherds of Old" Tune: The First Noel**

**Like shepherds of old keeping watch through the night,
We are watching and waiting for heavenly light.
Going forth in peace, proclaiming God's love,
Bring tidings of great joy from heaven above!
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Jesus shall come -- Emmanuel!"**

***The Postlude**

*Candle Lighting Readings produce by Presbyterian World Service
and Development. Written by The Rev. Mary Whitson.*

The Candle of Hope written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette-2015