

December 20, 2009, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship– 4th Sunday of Advent
As we gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God’s house.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Here We Are To Worship* Tim Hughes

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness,
 Opened my eyes, let me see.
 Beauty that made this heart adore You,
 Hope of a life spent with You.

Refrain
Here we are to worship, here we are to bow down,
Here we are to say that You’re our God.
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to us.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
 Glorious in heaven above.
 Humbly You came to the earth You created,
 All for love’s sake became poor.

Refrain x 2
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WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Stith and Deck Families

Voice 1:
 On each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle, a sign of hope in a world full of shadows. When all four candles are burning brightly, we will know that it is time to begin the Christmas feast of lights. We want to be ready to welcome the Joy of Christ into our lives. Today we light the Advent candle of Joy.
Response: Come, let us walk in the joy of the Lord.

Voice 2:
 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1-2)
Response: Come, let us walk in the joy of the Lord.

Sung response:
Come, come Emmanuel,
Son of God, appear.
Heaven and earth rejoice,
Salvation is drawing near,
Salvation is drawing near.

Response:
Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Hope of the World.
Come fill our minds with your peace and our hearts with your love.

OPENING SONG (see insert) *Emmanuel* Steve Angrisano

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: The Season of Advent is a time of reflection, confession, and prayer.

All: *If we have been too busy to be still before you, O God, forgive us.*
 One: The Season of Advent is a time to consider our priorities.
All: *If we have given first place to getting and spending, O God, forgive us.*
 One: The Season of Advent is a time for giving from our abundance.
All: *If we have been reluctant to share time or money, O God, forgive us.*
 One: The Season of Advent is a time of reunion and reconciliation.
All: *If we have neglected family members or friends, O God, forgive us.*
 One: The Season of Advent is the time to greet your Chosen One, Jesus Christ.
All: *If we have neglected the story of your love, come humbly to be with all people, O God, forgive us.*

---time for silent reflection---

One: Give us the true meaning of this Advent season, O God.
All: *Deepen our prayerfulness;*
alert us to the needs of the community;
enable us to give generously;
open our hearts with compassion;
remind us of Jesus, the One for whom we wait.
 One: In grace-filled waiting, God’s peace will be yours, God’s pardon will be experienced.
All: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7
 NRSV

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG (see insert) *The Age of Expectation* T. Flowerday/B. Fisher

DOXOLOGY

We thank you God for all you have given.
 Now we return a portion to you -
 For all that we have, and all that we are,
 We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-35 NRSV
 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,

and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

SERMON *Advent—A Time for Reflection* Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert) *There is a Light* Michael McClellan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *People Look East* Eleanor Farjeon

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today’s liturgy: Renewing the Covenant - David Sparks, *Prayers to Share, Year A.*

Thanks to Kristen Annett for serving as liturgist this morning.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

CHURCH STAFF (513-321-2573)	
Mr. John Adams, Ext. 109	Church Administrator
Mr. David Annett, Ext. 107	Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Mrs. Jan Annett, 871-2399	Director of Stephen Ministry
Ms. Christina Haan	Organist
Mrs. Marie George, (321-9228)	Co-Director of Knox Preschool
Mrs. Laura Johnson (321-9228)	Co-Director of Knox Preschool
Mrs. Renché le Roux, Ext. 110	Financial Secretary
Mr. John W. Plattner, 221-7997	Clerk of the Session
Rev. Jana Reister, Ext. 106	Associate Pastor
Dr. Earl G. Rivers, Ext. 113	Director of Music
Mrs. Pam Ward, R.N, Ext. 108	Faith Community Nurse
Rev. Thomas D. York, Ext. 104	Pastor
Ms. Tiffany Zents, Ext. 111	Church Educator
Knox Presbyterian Church website	www.knox.org
Knox Youth Group website	www.knox.org/youthgroup.org
Knox Preschool website	www.knox.org/preschool.php



To Our Guests and Visitors

Welcome!

Welcome to Knox Presbyterian Church! We invite you to join us whenever we are gathered for worship: 9:15 am (Knox Commons); 11:00 am (Sanctuary), education, fellowship or service. Join us also for coffee hour between the 9:15 and 11:00 am services in the Knox Commons. Visitor information is available at the rear of Knox Commons, in the narthex and in the Michigan Avenue lobby. If you have questions, look for members wearing badges, or call Tom York or Jana Reister in the church office, 321-2573.

Parking for Sunday Services

Parking can sometimes present challenges for those attending worship services or participating in other Knox events. In addition to the parking area off Michigan Avenue, we now have 13 additional parking spaces off Observatory Ave. On Sundays we are asking that the Observatory spaces be saved for use by individuals who are physically challenged. A map of available parking may be found on our website: www.knox.org

Restrooms

Men's and women's restrooms are available on the sanctuary level and on the basement level at the far north end of the building. Please follow the posted signs to their location.

Coatroom

The coatroom can be found off the Observatory Road narthex.

Caring for Children

Childcare for infants and toddlers is offered at 9:15 and 11:00 am during worship services. Please ask an usher or the Deacon on-duty in the Michigan Avenue lobby for directions to the nursery and childcare rooms.

Sunday School

At 9:15 am, Sunday School is available for children ages 3 years through grade 6. At 11:00 am, classes are held for children and youth ages 3 years old through 12th grade. Please check the bulletin insert for information about weekly Adult Education classes.

Hearing Enhancement Equipment Available

Hearing enhancement equipment is available to help you hear the service at 9:15 and 11:00 am. An usher would be happy to assist you. At the close of worship, please return the unit to an usher. Thank you!

Mobile Phones

Please turn off mobile phones, pagers and other mobile devices before the service begins. Thank you!

Printed Copies of Sermons

Printed copies of Sunday sermons are available at no cost. You will find them in the narthex (at the rear of the sanctuary) and in the Michigan Avenue lobby on Monday mornings.

Recycling

Please support the Knox Youth and our environment by dropping your Sunday bulletins and announcements in our Abitibi paper recycling boxes as you leave. Everyone is welcome to bring your home or office paper waste to place in the Abitibi bin located in the old parking lot.



Notes from

Worship Today

Knox Church

Presbyterian USA

All Are Welcome

We are a joyful community



of Christian faith...

A growing reflection of God's love.

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Michigan & Observatory
Hyde Park
(513) 321-2573

Notes from Today's Sermon

We can easily come to the conclusion that indeed, Christmas is for children, but I don't buy that one bit.

Every time these early Christians celebrated this Christmas event, it was a time of remembering—remembering what God had done for them in Christ, and to reflect and re-evaluate what they ought to be doing in response to that.

Binoculars are interesting instruments to play with.

We need to recapture the vision of concern for one another. Christmas was a love gift.

"The darkness will flee only when you can look at any woman or any man and say, 'You are my sister, you are my brother.' Only then is there dawn."

It is something all of us need; to go back in our minds and in our hearts to that place where we began, to remember our promises in the light of a manger, of a cross and of the empty tomb, to say, "I'll keep those promises, I'll keep them,"