

# The First Baptist Church at Worship

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2010

10:30 AM

“Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14 (NRSV)

*For those who believe in the transcendence and total otherness of God, it radically diminishes him. For those who do not believe in God, it is the ultimate absurdity. For those who stand somewhere between belief and unbelief, it challenges credulity in a new way. It is not a theory that can be tested rationally because it is beyond reason and it is not a theory, not something theologians have thought their way to. The claim is, instead, that it is something that has happened, and reason itself is somehow tested by it, humankind's whole view of what is possible and real. Year after year the ancient tale of what happened is told—raw, preposterous, holy—and year after year the world in some measure stops to listen.*

Frederick Buechner, “Emmanuel”  
A Room Called Remember

## The Gathering

### THE PRELUDE

Gregory Land, Organist  
Debbie Lindley, Pianist

(We gather for personal and corporate reflection and prayer.)

- Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* ..... Mendelssohn
- The Jesus Gift* ..... Martin
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* ..... Polish Carol
- In Dulci Jubilo* ..... German Carol

## In Praise to the Lord

### CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* ..... Genevan

### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#171 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
MENDELSSOHN

*Carols have long been thought of as an early form of Christian folk music. In 1627 the English Puritan council banned the celebration of Christmas and all other worldly festivals creating a scarcity of Christmas Carols. We can thank God for Charles Wesley who, in 1739, defied the ban by writing our opening carol.*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Bill and Sue Trollinger  
Anna & Jacob Biesecker-Mast



Isaiah 9:6-7 - *“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. The child's authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and the kingdom. God 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.”*

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. O come, O come Emmanuel.

### ADVENT PRAYER

*God our Creator, in the Advent Season when the past has fled, unasked, away, and there is nothing left to do but wait, God, shelter us. Be our surrounding darkness; be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time. In uncertain times, help us greet the dawn and labor on, love on, in faith awaiting your purpose hid in You, waiting to be born in due time. Amen.*

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*A Holy Hush, verse 4*  
J. MILDRED SCHELL & JAMES C. DILL

A hum-ble sta-ble man-ger bed is cra-dle for God's Son. The  
mir-a-cle of God with us does come for ev-ry one. Sing with an-gels; kneel with  
Shep-herds, the Lord is come! Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*(Please register your attendance by filling out a YELLOW CARD from the pew rack and placing it in the offering bag this morning.)*

We are invited to greet our nearest neighbors, extend our hand, and greet one another in the name of Christ.

(Please be seated.)

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Ed Wingham

## Reading & Proclaiming God's Word

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Kathy Jackson

**Isaiah 7:10-16:** Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and

choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God!**

### RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Jim Jackson

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

### MUSICAL RESPONSE:

I am the vine; you are the  
branch-es, root-ed in faith and love.

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

People: **Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

People: **You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. (MUSICAL RESPONSE)**

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

People: **But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

ALL: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. (MUSICAL RESPONSE)**

### ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

*Born On This Day* ..... Tom Fettke

### \*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.  
People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Matthew 1:18-25:** Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to

name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
 People: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

\*FELLOWSHIP HYMN #155 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
 ST. LOUIS

*Phillips Brooks wrote this carol in 1868 after a trip to the Holy Land. His inspiration came from spending Christmas Eve in Bethlehem and worshipping in the Church of the Nativity. Originally written for children, this carol has become a mainstay of the advent and Christmas season.*

CHILDREN'S TIME Cherub Choir  
 Leah Brough, Director  
 "Away In a Manger"

(Children in preK-grade 4 will be led downstairs for Sunday School. Younger Children preK-K will go to Room #4 and older children grades 1-4 will go to Room #3B. Parents should pick up their children after worship service.)

CALL TO PRAYER *Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord*  
 Mendelssohn (CCLI 1826847)



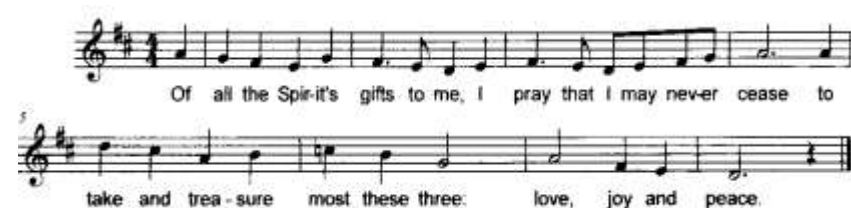
PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Jason Alspaugh  
 THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Debts & Debtors*)

THE SERMON Dr. Rodney Kennedy  
 "A Christmas Witness"

### The Response of God's People

THE OFFERTORY Greg Land & Debbie Lindley  
*Cantique de Noel* ..... Schubert/Adam

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me*  
 Fred Pratt Green (CCLI 1826847)



\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Jim Jackson

### INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*(Persons wishing to join First Baptist Church are invited to come forward while the organist plays the first verse of the recessional hymn. You may join First Baptist Church by confession of faith, transfer of letter, or statement of faith. The pastor will greet you as you come forward this morning.)*

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #157 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
 IN DULCI JUBILO

*This carol is an unusual combination of fourteenth century Latin phrases and vernacular German expressions making it one of the first hymns combining two or more languages. Translated by John Mason Neale in 1853, this carol has certainly stood the test of time as it is one of this season's favorites.*

\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL Dr. Rodney Kennedy

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION *We Go in Peace...*  
 Fred Pratt Green (CCLI 1826847)



\*POSTLUDE Greg Land & Debbie Lindley  
*Play We Now of Christmas* ..... setting by John Hess

At the close of today's service, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the Chapel, located in the Beaver Wing. Immediately following the Lord's Supper, a Service of Healing will be held in the Chapel. The service consists of prayers for healing and wholeness, with anointing and laying on of hands. All are invited.

### Worship Note

Christian witness has fallen on hard times. Part of the trouble is our own deafening silence. When is the last time we actually talked to anyone about our faith in Jesus Christ? How did religious convictions become one of the subjects not to be talked about along with politics and sex? Is it that we have so thoroughly mixed religion with sexual and political issues? Why do Christians think that protest is the primary form of witness? Matthew's story of the birth of Jesus reminds us that we have a Christmas witness to give to the nations. Perhaps we can learn once again how to present the good, positive, saving news of the Gospel.

# First Baptist Church of Dayton

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent



**Our Mission Statement:**  
*To celebrate God's love as a community of believers in Jesus Christ through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach to others.*

Dr. Rodney Wallace Kennedy, *Lead Pastor*  
 Rev. Jason Alspaugh, *Associate Pastor Children & Youth*  
 Rev. C. Roland Marcus, *Associate Pastor*  
 Rev. James Earnest, *Assistant Pastor of Visitation*  
 Rev. C. Donald Thrash, *Assistant Pastor of Visitation*  
 Ray Landis, *Music Director*  
 Gregory Land, *Organist*  
 R. Alan Kimbrough, *Organist*  
 Debbie Lindley, *Pianist*  
 Linda Mullins, *Financial Secretary*  
 Linda Blair, *Church Secretary*  
 Jerry Cook, *Custodian*

111 W. Monument Avenue  
 Dayton OH 45402  
 937-222-4691  
 Fax: 937-222-0649

fbccdayton.org  
 www.fbccdayton.org