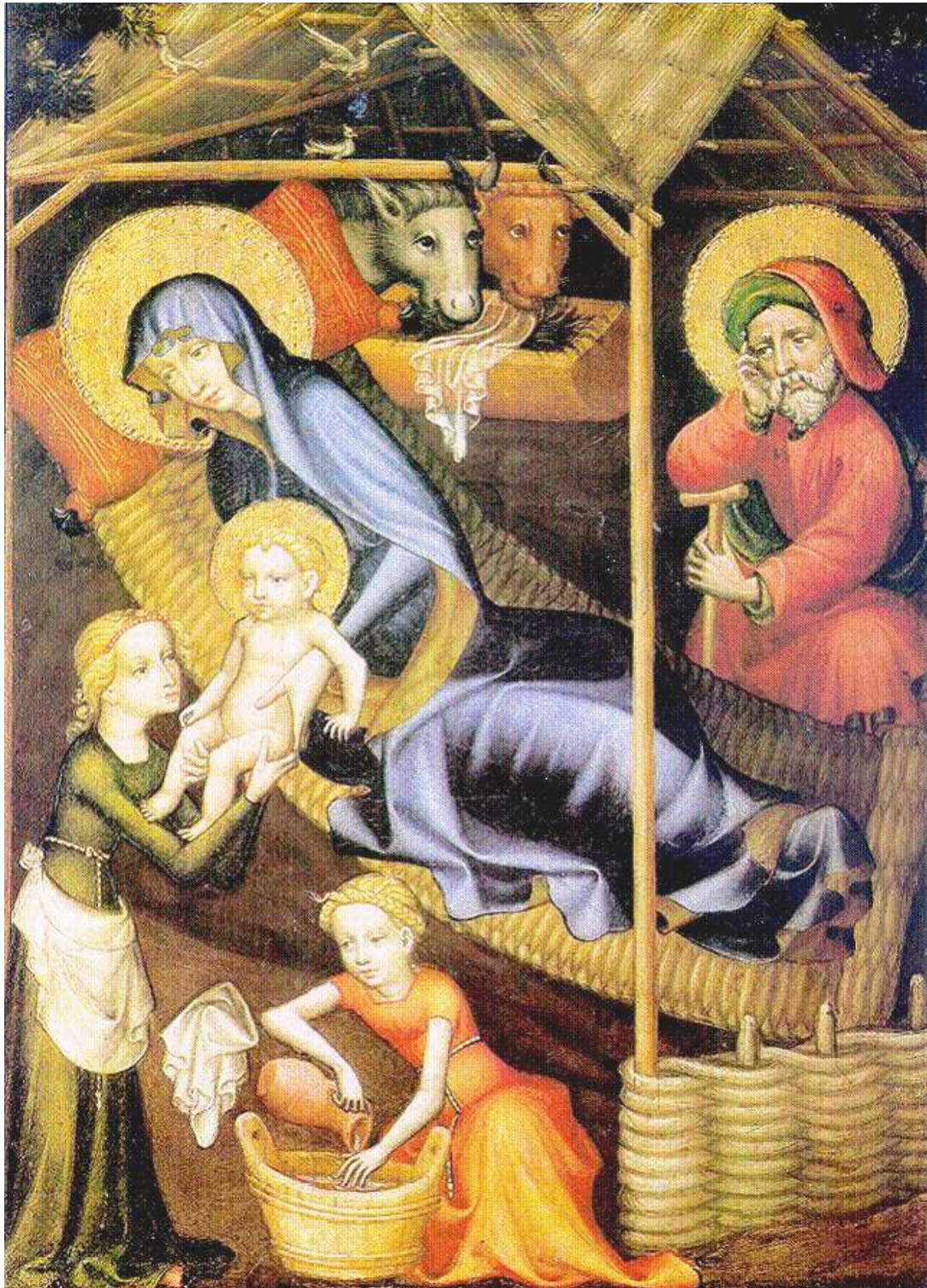

First Baptist Church at Worship
Christmas Day 2011
10:00 A.M.

111 W. Monument Ave.
Dayton OH 45402
937.222.4691



"The Nativity," by the Master of Salzburg, c. 1400

The Gathering

THE PRELUDE

Debbie Lindley, Piano

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful – Adeste Fidelis
O Little Town of Bethlehem – arr. Young
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – Mendelssohn / Riley

In Praise to the Lord

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*OPENING HYMN

#125 Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

Little is known of the origin of this French carol but for many Christians it just wouldn't be Christmas without singing this song. According to Kenneth Osbeck the Bible teaches that angels are ministering servants of God, continually being sent to help and protect us. Historically their greatest task was to announce the birth of our Savior.

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

Forgive, O Lord, our pursuit of the trivial so that we may avoid your truth. Show us the folly of our arguments over the naming of days and the proper way to celebrate them. Teach us to question our certainties so that we may discover the mystery of Christ's coming, not only to our darkness, but also to reveal the glory of his light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#122 v. 1 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now:
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF 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.)

Reading and Proclaiming God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Jim Earnest

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: as we hear your word this morning, gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 62:6-12

Brad Kallenberg

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*CHRISTMAS HYMN

#139 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

GLORIA

This traditional Polish carol also comes from an unknown source. The text is based on the Christmas gospel of Luke 2:1-20 evoking the atmosphere around the manger in Bethlehem at Christ's birth.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-4

Jeanne Kallenberg

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (Praetorius-Bliss)

Brad and Steve Kallenberg, with Brad Pipenger

*THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-14

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to John.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

*CHRISTMAS HYMN

#143 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

John W. Work, Jr. was a professor at Fisk University and took an African American spiritual refrain and wrote three verses based on Luke's gospel (Luke 2:8-14). Written in 1907, this has become one of our most loved carols.

SERMON: "All We Want for Christmas"

Dr. Rodney Kennedy

The Response of God's People

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY: "The Birthday of a King" (Neidlinger / Riley)

Debbie Lindley

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

#122 v. 3 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brad Kallenberg

Celebration of The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Celebrants: Rev. Jason Alspaugh, Rev. C. Roland Marcus)

THANKSGIVING

Rev. Alspaugh

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Alspaugh

BREAKING THE BREAD

Rev. Alspaugh

SHARING THE CUP

Rev. Marcus

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Rev. Marcus

"Still, Still, Still" (arr. Keveren) – Debbie Lindley

(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive by intinction. Please take a piece of the bread, dip it in the cup, and eat. If you are unable to come forward, but wish to receive, please raise your hand and a Deacon will serve you.)

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Rev. Marcus

*CHRISTMAS HYMN

#102 *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*
ANTIOCH

One of our most jubilant Christmas carols is quite different from most other carols. In this Isaac Watts carol there is no mention of the nativity, angels or shepherds. The entire text is about the joy of Jesus' birth and the promise of His Kingdom.

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*POSTLUDE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (French Carol, arr. Bish)

Debbie Lindley, Organ

(There is no coffee fellowship today, but please exchange Christmas greetings with one another.)