

Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Third Sunday of Advent)

December 15, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

[Luke 2:29-32]



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus as the firstborn son of Mary was consecrated to the Lord by His parents at the temple.

P: *Sovereign Lord, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice.*

L: The Spirit led Simeon to the temple courts where he encountered the Christ Child and His parents.

P: *Holy Spirit, help us encounter Jesus as we gather for worship today.*

L: God is spirit, and His true worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

P: *Spirit divine, make us like Anna who never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.*

*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*OPENING HYMN

203

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

*The Apostles Creed

881

*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

TFWS # 2090

(Soloist & Congregation to sing 3rd stanza after lighting of Candle)

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 3:1-6

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

HYMN

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

218

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (in unison)

~Joys and Concerns

~General Prayers & Intercession

~The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

895

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*Doxology "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" # 95

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept our tithes and offerings, O Lord, together with our lives, to be used by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, for the expansion of your kingdom, in our local Community, and around the face of the earth, that many shall come to know your Son, Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-35

MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

This Same Jesus: The Christ Child Meets Simeon & Anna

*CLOSING HYMN

99

"To God Be the Glory"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*For those who are able, please stand.

Week At A Glance:

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:30 a.m. Adult Discipleship (Adult Bible Study) in the Parlor

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Chapel)

Saturday, December 21, 2024

7:00 a.m. Weekly Prayer Huddle (see details in announcements)

CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER 2024

Birthdays

15 Stuart Cupps II

17 Greg Howard

18 Carl Mathias

22 Betty Agosta

22 Rita Cattran

23 Pete Reed

24 Zene Brunney

25 Ed Chaffin

26 Jeff Byerly

27 Vivian Shumaker

27 Maverick Hill

31 Chuck Wheatley

31 Judy Wheatley

Anniversaries

29 Art & Betsy Dickson

MINISTRY STAFF

Ministers: The People of This Congregation

Media Team: Daniel Onabanjo, Phyllis Flowers & Paul Jassogne

Media Team (Live Streaming): Lee Ann Whitmer

Church Secretary: Lee Ann Whitmer

Custodian: Jeff Byerly

Pianist: Jackie Howard

Liturgist: Greg Howard

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Allegheny West

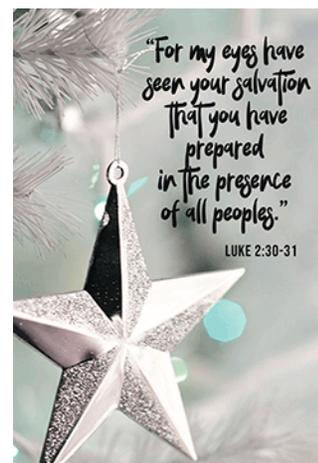
Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

1004 West Sixth Avenue

Lancaster, OH 43130

December 15, 2024

(Third Sunday of Advent)



Worship Service starts at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Children's Church (ages 5-13) starts at 10:45 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Pastor: Rev. Dr. 'Debo Onabanjo

Pastor's cell: 614-296-1081

Pastor's email: aaonabanjo@yahoo.com

Office email: sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com

Church: (740) 653-1196

Fax: (740) 653-6780

Website: 6thavegmc.org



Bennington Glen: Jane Patterson

Edgewood Manor (Lucasville): Alan Fick, C3

LanFair: Mary Chilcote, 313

Luxe: Jim Funkhouser, Eckert Wing, 207A

OSU (East): Mary Ann Polliard

Primrose: Bill & Doris Shauger, 121

The Ridge: Fred Beougher, 140

Continued Prayers are requested for:

Sharon Byerly, Phyllis Flowers, Ed Gurile, Clara Herrick, Lloyd & Diann Helber, Joan Irwin, Eleanor & Bob Kane, Carl & Sharon Mathias, Carla (Mathias), Vicki Oatney, Michael Parrish, Beth Patton, Rod Shouldis, Kathy Starnier, Don Taylor.

If you have a prayer concern or praise to share, please fill out a green prayer card found in the pew and give it to an usher before the worship service begins. Thank you for allowing us to pray for and with you!

*Please note: Names will be removed from the bulletin prayer list after three Sundays and will only be added if a new request is made.



Pastor & Staff Appreciation: If you would like to give a monetary gift to Pastor 'Debo and the church staff for Christmas, they will be accepted through December 17th. They may be turned in during the offertory time or any time in the office. Please mark your envelope or your check "Staff Christmas Gift." Thank you!

In Remembrance of Freda Downs: The Mitten Tree is up and ready to be decorated with mittens, gloves, hats, scarfs, socks, underwear for children, and whatever else that you think might be necessary. All items collected will be delivered on December 21st to Maywood Mission. Thank you and God Bless!

Mitten Tree



Advent Season Program/Advent Message Series: The Season of Advent which marks the start of the Christian Liturgical Year began on Sunday December 1, 2024. We began our **Advent Message Series, "This Same Jesus"** on Sunday **December 1, 2024** with a look at Jesus through the eyes of Joseph appointed by God to be His earthly father. Last Sunday, December 8, we looked at the Christmas Story through the eyes of the Shepherds who received the "good news that will cause great joy for all the people." The ordinary Shepherds traveled to Bethlehem to meet The Good Shepherd. During our worship gathering today, we will meet two of the credible witnesses that encountered the Christ Child, Simeon and Anna. This Message Series is to help us understand the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ in fulfillment of prophetic revelation and how we are called to live as contemporary witnesses and heralds of His second Advent. Those who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus will get a glimpse into His story through our witness and it is therefore important that we have the right understanding about Jesus through the lens of some of those who encountered Him in the flesh. As the original disciples gazed intently in awe as the resurrected Jesus ascended into heaven, Dr. Luke tells us that "two men dressed in white stood beside them" and shared this important prophetic word: "*Men of Galilee,*" they said, "*why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.*" (**Acts 1:10-11**). Please plan to join us for the Fourth Sunday of Advent that will prepare us for Christmas.

Special Christmas Eve Service: We would like to specially invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship Celebration on **Tuesday December 24, 2024** at 6:30pm. It promises to be a blessed time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. **There will be a separate service at Mt. Zion GMC at 5:00pm.** Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for this special service. Also, be on the lookout for the special invitation letter to support our Special Christmas Offering to be used for support of our Missional Partnership with the Kenya Annual Conference of the GMC.

Pastor's Bible Study: We invite you to please mark your calendar for our weekly time of study on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. During this Advent Season, we will be taking a fresh look at some of the stories about Jesus recorded in the gospel accounts as it relates to our weekly Message. For this Wednesday 12/18/24, we will be looking at the Sermon on The Mount recorded in **Matthew chapters 5-7**. Please read the passages in advance and come prepared to share any useful insight from your reading. This Bible Study is open to all members of the community and we also pray for personal and general requests. Please invite a neighbor/friend to join us. There will be no Pastor's Bible Study on **Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25**. Thanks!

Volunteers Still Needed: We are still in urgent need of volunteers to serve on the Hospitality Team as Greeters to help welcome members and guests to our weekly worship services. We also need volunteers to assist on the Worship/Media Ministry Team. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Gregg Witham or Lee Ann Whitmer. Thanks!

New Year Message Series – "Christian To The Core": Please plan to join us for our New Year Message Series starting on January 5, 2024. Please be on the lookout for additional information on this Message Series that will include all members of the church. If you would like to be involved in planning for this Message Series, kindly contact Pastor 'Debo.

Inclement Weather Policy: When a **Level 2** or higher snow emergency is issued for the City of Lancaster or Fairfield County in general, all church events will be cancelled. This includes worship services, meetings, and other activities. Please check your local TV listings for more information (ABC 6 & 10TV).



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WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (December 15, 2024 – December 21, 2024):

(Scripture passages are from the New International Version (NIV) Bible unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday December 15

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-40; Reflection Verses: Luke 2:29-32

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What do you think about Simeon’s testimony? What promise (s) of God are you standing upon?

Monday December 16

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52; Reflection Verses: Luke 2:49-52

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What do you understand by the response of Jesus to His parents?

Tuesday December 17

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-15; Reflection Verses: Mark 1:14-15

“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Why is the preaching of repentance still relevant today? Who can you share the good news with in this season?

Wednesday December 18

Scripture Reading Mark 1:16-28; Reflection Verses: Mark 1:17-18

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How is Jesus teaching you to fish for people? Where do you need to cast your net today?

Thursday December 19

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:29-45; Reflection Verse: Mark 1:35

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How is your prayer life? What can we learn from Jesus about prayer?

Friday December 20

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18; Reflection Verse: John 1:5

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How are you shining the light of Jesus Christ? (see **Matthew 5:14-16** for more insight)

Saturday December 21

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:1-15; Reflection Verse: 1 John 4:11

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: How did God demonstrate His love for us? (see **John 3:16-17**)

Hebrews 3:1-6

Jesus Greater Than Moses

3 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house,"^[a] bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Luke 2:22-35

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."^[b]

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about

him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child
is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign
that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be
revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Jesus as the firstborn son of Mary was consecrated to the Lord by His parents at the temple.

P: *Sovereign Lord, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice.*

L: The Spirit led Simeon to the temple courts where he encountered the Christ Child and His parents.

P: *Holy Spirit, help us encounter Jesus as we gather for worship today.*

L: God is spirit, and His true worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

P: *Spirit divine, make us like Anna who never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.*

***The Apostles Creed**

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881

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; he descended into hell, the third day he arose 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 Breakthrough Prayer

Amazing God, we pray that through the Holy Spirit your preferred future for Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church will be made known to us. We ask that you use us to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our friends, family, and community. Give us the courage to follow the leading of your Holy Spirit wherever that may take us. Open our eyes so that we may see the new things you are already doing among us. AMEN.