

Hope



Love
Joy
Peace

THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SHINE GOD'S LOVE INTO EVERY LIFE

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

December 13, 2009

8:30 & 11:00 am

Ministers

All Members of the Congregation

Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Gaston

Associate Pastor

Rev. Lisa Marshall

Associate Pastor

Rev. Jessica Wright

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. Locust Street

Denton, Texas • 940.382.5478

www.fumc-denton.com

WE GATHER

Welcome

Rev. Lisa Marshall

If you have prayers of joy or concern to share with the congregation and the Prayer Ministry Team, please write those on a blue Prayers of the People card located in the pew rack in front of you. These cards will be picked up during the first hymn.

The Children are invited to the front for Children's Time.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Deana Ferguson

*Hymn 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

The Prayers of the People will be picked up during the singing of this hymn.

WE PROCLAIM

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Jessica Wright

Lord's Prayer

the people praying

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Our Offering

Hodie

John Priddy

(This Day)

Chancel Choir, soloists, orchestra
John Priddy, conductor

I, John

Cantor - David Grogan
Text: John I (adapt.); Conditor alme siderum - 7th Century

Adam Lay Ibounden

Text: Anonymous English - 15th century

Come, Thou Precious Ransom

Text: Johannes G. Olearius, trans. August Crull, 1923

In the Kitchen - The Annunciation

Mary - Laura Warriner
Text: Father Kilian McDonnell

Christmas Eve/Little Lamb

Soloist - David Grogan
Text: Christina Rossetti & William Blake

Christ Is at Thy Portals

Text: Psalm 24:9; St. Romanos the Melodist - 5th century

A Cradle Song

Gabriel - Jean Priddy
Text: W.B. Yeats

O Magnum Mysterium

Text: Responsorial chant from the Matins of Christmas.

Creator of the Stars of Night

Text: Conditore alme siderum - 7th Century

Please register your attendance on the registration pads. After you have completed your information, pass it down the row, and then back up the row so that everyone can see who is sitting nearby.

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Lisa Marshall

If you would like to explore becoming a part of this church family, please come down at the close of the service to express that desire and see one of the pastors who will be happy to guide you in those next steps through our Methodism 101 class.

***Hymn 246**

Joy to the World

***Blessing**

Postlude

Joy

Elizabeth Arabella

Today's presentation of *Hodie* was made possible by the Olin & Rosedell Ford Memorial Fund.

We are grateful to Father Kilian McDonnell and Saint John's University Press for the authorization for use of his poem "In the Kitchen" as found in his *Swift, Lord, You Are Not* - Saint John's University Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2003.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Fannie Belle Gaupp by her family.

The acolytes today are Rebeckah Cheek and Jack Wilde (8:30);
Emily Hill and Haley Wilcox (11:00).

Banner bearers today are Jed Simms and Michael Schriver (8:30)
Maddie Quintanar and Alex Poston (11:00).

Childcare is provided for newborns through Pre-K on the 1st Floor
of the East Wing during worship.

A television is set up downstairs in Miller Center during the 11:00 am worship service
for those who feel the need to leave the Sanctuary
but still wish to be a part of the service.

New members are always welcome at First United Methodist Church of Denton.
For more information, call one of our pastors at 940.382.5478.

The new library hours are posted on the Library door.

One of your pastors is always available for after hours emergencies at 940.566.6500.

A Stephen Minister is available to help you through a difficult time. All you need
to do is call one of our pastors, 940.382.5478.

Hodie -- The Composer's Notes

The rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* has always been promoted as “The Greatest Story Ever Told”. How apt. No other legend, no myth, no monumental epic has inspired more works of art in human history than the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. Indeed, it was my long association with another musical setting of the Advent story of the same name by British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams that served as a starting point for today's presentation of *Hodie*. Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, which the Chancel choir presented here in 2003, sets both sacred scripture and secular prose into a large, joyful celebration of the anticipation and birth of Jesus. Vaughan Williams' use of texts by great masters, including Milton, Hardy, Drummond and Herbert, created a work that not only thrills musically but exalts in centuries of English literature as well.

Following Vaughan Williams' example (as well as Benjamin Britten in his *War Requiem* and Johannes Brahms' *German Requiem*) today's *Hodie* blends sacred scripture and secular prose to tell the familiar story. Ancient Latin tropes from the Matins of Christmas as well as early-church scripts from the 7th century find place alongside the Victorian verses of *In The Bleak Mid-Winter* poetess Christina Rossetti and the prose of William Blake, which embraces 'imagination as "the body of God".' W.B. Yeats treats us with a lullaby that, in my mind, seems to be sung by a Gabriel that just might be slightly jealous of his new 'baby brother'.

Searching for a text to illustrate the Annunciation, I stumbled upon the poetry of Father Kilian McDonnell, a monk at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. His “In the Kitchen” marvelously captures the innocence of a youthful Mary caught up in an encounter with an angel Gabriel that modern sensibilities might consider almost ‘extraterrestrial’.

Hodie, Latin for ‘this day’, is roughly chronologic. *I, John* opens with a motif recalling the Shofar, or Jewish ceremonial ram's horn. The Cantor, serving the two-fold role as The Baptist as well as Writer of the Gospel, proclaims the birth of Jesus. As the Cantor invokes the ancient universal longing for salvation, the choir speaks the opening sentences of the Gospel of John in which, “the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us.” Original sin and its consequential need for Christly intervention are set forth in *Adam Lay Ibounden*, an anonymous 15th century poem. *Come, Thou Precious Ransom* is full of the yearning, both spiritual and political, that preceded His birth. Mary's Annunciation, already mentioned above, is recounted in *In the Kitchen*. The earthly manifestations of the season begin *Christmas Eve*, only to be trumped by the foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice in *Little Lamb*. Mankind is exhorted to prepare for Jesus' birth in *Christ Is at Thy Portals*, which culminates in an explosion of energy upon His arrival, underscored by a shout from the choir: “Hodie, Christus Natus Est!” Today, Christ is born. The mood quietens as the angels, led by Gabriel, lullaby the Infant in a *Cradle Song*. The chorus sings of the marvelous mystery and miracle of the event in *O Magnum Mysterium*, a text which has been set countless times through the centuries. Lastly, *Creator of the Stars of Night* closes the work with a boisterous celebration of Christmas.

I am grateful to the congregation for the opportunity to create this work and to Rev. Matt Gaston for the chance to present it during worship services. I am also extremely thankful for the hard work and dedication of the Chancel Choir which has often had to endure a rather ‘arduous birth’. – John Priddy

Orchestra

| | | |
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| Violin I Kristin Van Cleve Ellen Lovelace Lisamarie Vana | Violin II Amy Faires Jennifer Garner Tess Isaac | Viola Liesl-Ann de Villiers Colin Garner Meghan Birmingham |
| Cello Lise Engel Eric Forman Craig Leffer | Bass Jack Unzicker Steve Brown | Trumpet John Holt Keith Johnson Mark Lynn |
| Horn Bill Scharnberg Mike Morrow | Trombone Tony Baker Justin Cook Jeremiah Stones | Flute Kareen Britt |
| Clarinet John Scott | Tuba Jung-Moo Lee | Oboe Stewart Williams |
| Bassoon Kathleen Reynolds | Harp Ellen Ritscher Sackett | Timpani Mark Ford |
| Organ Dale Peters | Piano Donna Meinecke | Percussion Steve Babcock Austin Ford Ming-Jen Suen |

Today . . .

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|---------------|--|
| 9:00-11:00 am | Light Bulb Exchange |
| 9:40 am | Sunday School Classes; Youth on the 3 rd Floor in the Youth Loft |
| 12:15 pm | Charge Conference – a meeting of the Administrative Board |
| 5:30-7:30 pm | United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) -- Youth-Led Worship (snack supper will be served)- <i>The entire congregation is invited to this special service, which will start at 6:45 pm in Flinn Hall</i> |

This Week . . .

December 16 **Community Bible Study**, noon, Flinn Hall, brown bag lunch.

Feast in Fellowship, a Wednesday night meal, 5:30-6:30 pm, Monroe Gym. Cost: Adults \$ 5.00; Children 10 and under \$ 3.00; Family maximum \$15.00. **Make reservations by noon on Monday, please.** **Menu:** Pot roast with carrots, potatoes, salad, bread pudding. **Your Servers:** New Horizons Class.

Advent Communion Service, 6:30 pm, Flinn Hall.

Rev. Lisa Marshall's sermon is based upon the famous Christmas anthem, "O Holy Night." Musical selections include "In freezing Winter Night," "This little babe," and Interlude" (harp solo), featuring UNT harpist Ann McLaughlin and the women of FUMC-Denton Chancel Choir

Advent Schedule

December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent

The Chancel Choir offers a seasonal music selection – *Hodie* --
-- during the 8:30 & 11:00 am worship services.

December 16 Community Bible Study, noon, Flinn Hall, brown bag lunch

Feast in Fellowship, 5:30 pm, Monroe Gym

Advent Communion Service, 6:30 pm, Flinn Hall

December 20 4th Sunday in Advent

December 24 A Classic Christmas -- Christmas Eve Services

Traditional Services with Carols, Candles, & Communion –

3:00, 7:00, 11:00 pm

Family Service – *The Gifts of Christmas* –

for families with young children – 5:00 pm,

also including candles and communion.

December Mission Corner Collection

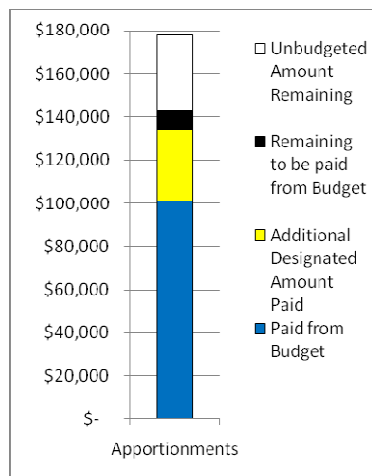
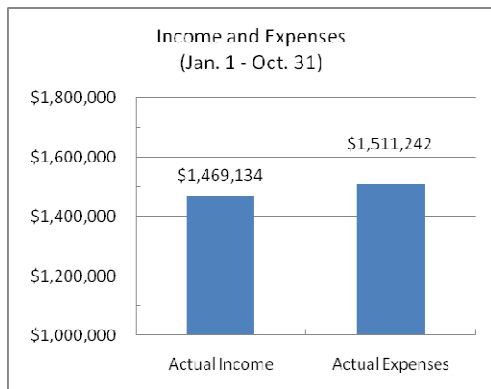
Paper goods for the Salvation Army

\$ADD\$- Apportionment Designated Dollar\$

You are invited to help reach our church's goal of 100% pay-out of our Apportionments. Place \$1 bills in the offering plate each time you worship. Unless you direct those \$1 bills toward the General Budget, they will be designated toward our Apportionment goal of \$60,000 through the end of the year.

Accomplishments & Unfinished Business

We have done amazing things so far this year from a financial perspective. The year is not done, and we have some work to do to balance our income and expenses, as well as fully meeting our apportionment obligations. In this season of giving, please remember the financial responsibilities of the church, and the good work that these financial commitments do, as one way to give at the end of the year.



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