



The Kenilworth Union Church

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www.kuc.org

Jane B. Lionberger
Associate Minister

Dr. Andrew Chaney
Senior Minister

Sarah E. Garcia
Associate Minister

Anne S. Faurot
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Gilbert W. Bowen
Minister Emeritus

Lisa R. Bond
Director of Music

The Service of Worship

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Lessons & Carols Sunday

8:00 am Communion Service
9:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services & Sunday School

Prelude *Fantasie on French Carols*.....Alexandre Guilmant
The King Shall Come.....Arr. Kathy Moglebust
Adult Bell Choir

Call to Worship and the Organ Meditation

Advent Reading and Candlelighting

Welcome

Hymn No. 49 *Once in Royal David's City*.....Henry J. Gauntlett
Jonathan Hanold, Soloist; Congregation, verses 2 & 4

Lesson 1 Genesis 3: 17-19
(God confronts Adam & Eve about their disobedience)

The Lord at First Did Adam Make.....Based on Trad. English
.....Carol, arr. David L. Mennicke
Chancel Choir

Lesson 2 Genesis 22: 15-18 (God promises to faithful Abraham
that through him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.)

Hymn No. 488 *The God of Abraham Praise*.....Hebrew Melody
...Adapted by T. Olivers and M. Lyons
Chancel Choir and Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offertory *Veni, Veni (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*Arr. C. Davis
KUC Chamber Ensemble, Lindsay Klecka, Director

Lesson 3 Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 (The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior)

Hymn No. 14 *Savior of the Nations Come*.....
.....Based on Plainsong Melody
Combined Choirs and Congregation

Lesson 4 Isaiah 11: 1-4 (The peace that Christ will bring is told.)

Night of Silence.....Dan Kantor, Arr. John Ferguson
KUC Youth Choir, Chamber Ensemble, Chancel Choir, Adult Bell Choir
and Congregation

Lesson 5 Luke 1: 26-35, 38
(The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Last Month of the Year.....Spiritual
KUC A Cappella, Hamilton Chang, Director

Lesson 6 Luke 2: 1, 3-7 (Luke tells of the birth of Jesus)

Here's A Pretty Little Baby.....Spiritual, Arr. Andre Thomas
KUC Youth Choir, Barbara Falk, Piano; Devin Whittington, Soloist

Lesson 7 Matthew 2: 1-11 (The wise men are led to Jesus by the star.)

We Three Kings.....John Hopkins Jr., Arr. Joel Raney
Adult Bell Choir

Lesson 8 Luke 2: 8-16 (The shepherds go to the manger.)

Babe of Bethlehem.....Edmund Walters
Rejoice Singers

Lesson 9 John 1: 1-14 (John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation)

Hymn (see insert) *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*.....
.....Arr. M. Burkhardt
Combined Choirs and Congregation

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn No. 40 *Joy to the World*.....G. F. Handel
.....Arr. Burkhardt
Combined Choirs and Congregation

Postlude *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*.....Johann Sebastian Bach

Tameron Conseur, M. M. Dr. William Aylesworth Kelli Harrington, M. M.
Asst. Dir. of Choirs Guest Organist Asst. Dir. of Rejoice and
Bell Choirs

Today's special music is a gift from Joe and Nancy Masterson.

USHERS 8:00 am Phillis Dunbar	USHERS 9:00 am Stuart N. Schuldt Mike Flynn Newt Marshall Rob F. Schuldt II Steve Shepherd Robert Stephens Rich Thompson	USHERS 10:30 am Reid Wettersten John Abendshien Lee E. Curtiss Greg Skirving John Tsarpalas Jack Wentz John Wettersten	ALTAR GUILD Robert Cannon Robert Emerson
GREETERS Catherine and Ed King Linda Kingman and Jim Graham			BUS ATTENDANT Hyde Perce

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar arrangement in the sanctuary is given in memory of Wilson Besant by his family. The flowers in the lavabo are given in loving memory of Roberta Mather by her family.

RECEPTION FOR REV. JANE LIONBERGER, JAN. 8, after the 10:30 service. Join us to thank and bid God-speed to Rev. Lionberger.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Fourth Sunday of Advent-Love(Lambs-6th Grade) The poor and the wealthy came to worship the baby Jesus. Are we open to all this can mean, a new way of loving God and man?

Mitten Tree: Our mitten tree is located in the vestibule. Please donate new mittens, scarves, hats or gently-used coats in dark colors and conservative patterns. These items will be given to The Infant Welfare Society.

High School Helper Christmas Party: Join us today, December 18, 11:45 am at Homer's. Please bring a pair of mittens, a hat, or a scarf for our mitten tree.

CHRISTMAS EVE BABYSITTERS NEEDED: High school or college students are needed to help with child care at the 3:00 pm service. Please call Anne Faurot at (847) 853-2008 with questions, or afaurot@kuc.org.

KUC ALUMNI CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7 PM ON DECEMBER 22. There will be a rehearsal for Christmas Eve on Dec. 22.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: At 11:00 am on Saturday, December 24, there will be a puppet show and homemade Nativity service for young children and their families. Traditional candlelighting services are at 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 and 11:00 pm. Childcare will be available for ages up to 2 years old at 3:00 only. Reservations are required. Please call Children's Ministries at 853-2634.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 1: Services will be at 10:00 am in the Schmidt Chapel. Please feel free to have your children attend the worship service with you on these two Sundays. Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 9.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, Jan. 22 at 5 pm is our annual Winter Warm Up Soup Supper. This is a fund-raiser for the high school mission trip to New Orleans. Tickets are \$8 per person or \$20 per family.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: IMPACT Christmas Service Project December 18: All high schoolers are invited to carol and hand out holiday treats at the Waterford Nursing Home in Rogers Park. Meet at 417 Warwick at 6 pm tonight. We'll carpool to the Waterford.

Home-from-College-Christmas Party, Dec. 22: College students, join us at Maggiano's in Old Orchard at noon. RSVP to Carrie Hoza, carriehoza@gmail.com.

Youth Group Vacation: There will be no youth group meetings the week of Dec. 19 and Dec. 26. Youth groups resume the week of Jan. 2.

IMPACT: Attention: All high schoolers! Applications are due January 1.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS: Join us on January 4. We are delighted that Paul Kasriel, chief economist for the Northern Trust, will join us again to review the current state of the economy. Please RSVP to the church by December 30.

BRIDGE: Intermediate Bridge will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, beginning with Jan. 10 and 24.

Preaching Schedule

Dec. 24-Dr. Chaney
Dec. 25-Rev. Garcia, only one service at 10:00 am
Jan. 1-Rev. Lionberger, only one service at 10:00 am
Jan. 8-Rev. Lionberger
Jan. 15-Dr. Chaney

Please turn off all electronic devices while attending services. Thank you.

The Care Guild Leader for December is Sallie Smith. To volunteer or to let us know where help is needed, please call the Care Guild number at (847) 853-3534 or email careguild@kuc.org.

Dr. Andrew Chaney "Pause and Give Thanks"

*Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper.
You have turned my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord, my God, I will give you thanks forever.* -Psalms 30: 11-13

A man hurt his thumb on the job and went to a nearby clinic. As he walked in he noticed two doors that might have described his condition. He chose one, only to be in another room with two more doors. This continued for some time until the man finally found himself out on the street again. How many times does that happen to us? We try to make a connection only to find that after a lot of effort we have not really gone anywhere at all.

Thanksgiving, one of our greatest American traditions, is right on the horizon. In a few days we will pause and give thanks for the blessings God has given. People will gather to remember one of the toughest groups of Americans, the English Puritans, who called themselves pilgrims in allusion to a verse in the Bible, "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*" (Hebrews 11:13) Because these pilgrims felt as if they were in route to another place, they were able to express thanksgiving in the midst of dire circumstances and live courageously.

This poem by Lilian Guthrie exemplifies how they lived life with heaven in mind:

*Homesick sometimes,
Want to go home;
Aching with longing
Where'er I roam.
Weary sometimes,
Wishing to be
There in the glory
Eternally.*

*Coming sometime,
Great trumpet sound!
Glorious daybreak!
Joy will abound.
Trading sometime
Body of clay,
For one immortal;
Hasten blest day!*

The pilgrims had a purpose in life, a goal that brought resilience to

their present. Pausing from life's busyness and giving thanks reminded them of God's generous strength. Their thankfulness has become an annual reminder that God's blessings truly overflow. When we remember that life is a journey given by God and moving towards God, our lives gain focus. The big picture comes into view. The little things in the picture of life that distort our clarity suddenly gain perspective when they become part of the grand view, which is, we are all pilgrims going to the same place- God.

There are many ways to remind oneself that we are in fact pilgrims. In the nineteenth century people who passed the Rothschild mansion in the fashionable quarter of London noticed that the end of one of the cornices was unfinished. The question may be asked: Could not the richest man in the world afford to pay for that cornice, or was the lack due to carelessness? The explanation is a very simple yet suggestive one when it is known. Lord Rothschild was an orthodox Jew, and every pious Jew's house, tradition says, must have some part unfinished, to bear testimony to the world that its occupant is only, like Abraham, a pilgrim and a stranger upon the earth.

Another way to remind ourselves that we are pilgrims is to actually make a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a journey to a place of personal significance. Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* gives an entertaining look at how each pilgrim comes with a unique perspective. The narrator describes the hypocrisy, bravery, and indulgence of the characters, among other things. In the midst of such diversity, each pilgrim shares one fact in common- a destination. Do you have a place where you go to recharge yourself? Whenever I go down a dirt road in the forest of west Alabama to the family cemetery, my father's tombstone reminds me, "Be not afraid," and I breathe in courage. Maybe there is a special place in your life, too. Recently I returned from Israel, a place for pilgrimage throughout history, with 15

other members of our church. When one is a pilgrim, there is a destination in mind. But when there is no goal, life is lived at another level, because drifting aimlessly saps all energy and purpose from life.

The story of Abraham in the Bible describes how God called his people. Abraham wandered as a nomad of the Mesopotamian Valley. God called him, and Abraham became a pilgrim. He heard a call and obeyed it. This is what makes pilgrims of people.

Pausing on Thanksgiving Day allows us to look at our lives and ask where we are going. No doubt, we are on the move, and going somewhere, but where? A man hired a small airplane to fly him to a business appointment a few hundred miles away. After being in the air longer than expected, the man asked the pilot, "Where are we?" The pilot replied, "Well, I think we are lost; but we're making good time." Of course, it doesn't count for much when you are making good time in the wrong direction. A similar story happened when a man on a hunting trip realized he was lost. He told his guide, "I thought you said you were the best guide in Minnesota." To which the guide responded, "I am, undoubtedly; but I think we're in Canada now."

Whether we have made a pilgrimage or not, we may realize that we are lost as these two gentlemen did. Then what do we do? We can do the same thing that Abraham did- we can pause to listen for the call of God to turn our lives around. The blessings that God has bestowed upon us point our lives toward a heavenly goal. Thanksgiving fills life as a new purpose sets a pilgrimage into motion. Suddenly we have become pilgrims in life's journey. The good news is that although we may feel that we need to go somewhere, in fact, we do not need to take a literal trip. The pilgrimage can be internal.

Yes, we may not have to move from where we are to begin this pilgrimage of thanksgiving. The Biblical character Jacob slept while on a journey. He dreamed of angels, and when he woke up realized that he was already in a holy place. He said, "Surely the presence of the Lord was in this place and I did not know it." He built a memorial to mark the spot. While traveling in Israel I experienced the holiness of many memorials. The 9/11 Memorial in the Jerusalem forest hills has all of the names of the victims encircling a huge American flag that waves upward like a flame. As I looked at the names of the victims in

silence, the reverence was interrupted by a massive explosion nearby that shook the ground as a work crew blew through rock for a cellular tower's base. The surprise punctuated the shock that the victims' surviving families must be feeling. Memorials can shake us to the core of our being. But when our nerves settle, we can give thanks that one day we will join our loved ones who have gone ahead of us.

When a pilgrimage impacts our inside, our soul, our spirit, we realize that an internal pilgrimage trumps any external one. An internal pilgrimage leads us right to who we really are, once the onion of our external trappings is peeled. In thankful humility we realize that without God there is no past, present, or future. This is the real lesson of thanksgiving given to us early in the Bible. Moses tells the people of Israel in Deuteronomy chapter 8, "When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have multiplied ... Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is the Almighty who gives you the power to get wealth." (Deuteronomy 8:12-13, 17-18)

Pause and give thanks to God on Thanksgiving Day. Begin that spiritual pilgrimage that points your life in a new direction, filled with generosity and love towards others because God has been so generous and loving toward you. Amen.

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