

PIONEER CONNECT

DECEMBER 24, 2016



[#RxF4Now](#)

THE CHRISTMAS ROBE: A MEDITATION ON THE SWADDLING CLOTHS

WELCOME

to Pioneers

"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV).

Welcome everyone and Happy Sabbath on our Christmas celebration worship service. We are so glad you are here on this winter Sabbath. Welcome visitors, students, and members. We wish everyone God's blessing as we worship together.

—Don Dronen



PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)

PHONE – 269.471.3133

FAX – 269.471.6152

LIVE STREAMING

www.newperceptions.tv
Sabbath 11:45 AM

ONLINE

www.pmchurch.org
www.newperceptions.tv

RADIO

WAUS – 90.7 FM
Sabbath 11:30 AM



NOMINATING REPORT

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CHRISTMAS PEANUTS

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

Some time ago Charles Schultz's syndicated Peanuts cartoon went apocalyptic. Frame 1: Lucy to Charlie Brown, "I don't worry about the world coming to an end anymore." Frame 2: She continues, "The way I figure it, the world can't come to an end today because it is already tomorrow in some other part of the world." Frame 3: Lucy turns and asks Charlie Brown, "Isn't that a comforting theory?" Final frame: Lucy smiling but Charlie Brown muttering, "I've never felt so comforted in all my life!"

What do the end of the world and Christmas have to do with each other? One word: Advent. Which being interpreted, of course, means the Messiah's coming. First time. Second time. Both times, "God with us." Advent.

The American lawyer and social activist, William Stringfellow, in his essay, "The Penitential Season," bemoans the loss of meaning of this Advent season in America: "For all the greeting card and sermonistic rhetoric, I do not think that much rejoicing happens around Christmastime, least of all about the coming of the Lord. There is, I notice, a lot of holiday frolicking, but that is not the same as rejoicing." Why the loss of a deeper joy in this season? "The depletion of a contemporary recognition of the radically political character of Advent [i.e., "that message that in the coming of Jesus Christ, the nations and the principalities and the rulers of the world are judged in the Word of God"] is in large measure occasioned by the illiteracy of church folk about the Second Advent and, in the mainline churches, the persistent quietism of pastors, preachers, and teachers about the Second Coming. . . . Yet it is impossible to apprehend either Advent except through the relationship of

both Advents" (in *Watch for the Light* 104, 105). Did you catch that? "It is impossible to apprehend either Advent except through the relationship of both Advents."

In all holiday candor, it makes me wonder—not just about Americans, but about those of us who bear the name "Advent-ists." Have we inadvertently (and no doubt, innocently) abandoned the apocalyptic connection between the two Advents, between Christmas and the Second Coming? And yet in this season's most beloved and lauded of compositions, George Frederick Handel's *The Messiah*, the composer powerfully and convincingly weaves together the theme of both Advents in his magnum opus. Isaiah's grand prophecy—"For unto us a Son is given"—is inseparably joined with the Apocalypse's mighty Hallelujah chorus—"For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!" Because it is impossible to comprehend either Advent "except through the relationship of both Advents." Stringfellow was right.

Then shall we not join him, and this Christmas set ablaze the candle of our joy, not only for the Advent that is past, but also for the One who is coming? "Oh that today the human family could recognize that song ["Glory to God in the highest"]! The declaration then made, the note then struck, will swell to the close of time, and resound to the ends of the earth" (*Desire of Ages* 48). ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at www.pmchurch.tv/blog

Originally published on December 16, 2015 in "The Fourth Watch" blog.

GOD'S ABUNDANT PANTRY

BY CHUCK PECK

International and graduate student families have been richly blessed by your donations to God's Abundant Pantry (GAP) this passed year. More than 367 families have registered and received supplemental groceries from GAP in 2016.

GAP is an independent ministry administratively supported by PMC. It receives no funding from the PMC annual budget. GAP only receives funding from people like you who make donations to "God's Abundant Pantry" on your Tithe Envelope or online.

Without your donations GAP would cease to exist. It would no longer distribute the pallets of staple groceries every Tuesday and Thursday. Some of the students GAP is serving today are second generation AU student families whose parents were supplied supplemental food while receiving their education at AU.

Your \$120 donation will provide a student family \$250 worth of supplemental food every month through out 2017. Every dollar donated equals \$25 worth of groceries retail.

Here are a few Testimonials from students who have been blessed by your donations to the GAP ministry. ■

Chuck Peck is the director of God's Abundant Pantry (GAP).

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write
"GAP or God's Abundant Pantry"
on your tithe envelope.

STUDENT FAMILY STORIES

"Thank you for financially supporting "GAP!" I appreciate all the work the volunteers are doing for my family and I. Know that without your help I would not be able to fulfill the plan that God has for me in this world. Sometimes I wonder how it would have turned out if there was no "GAP." Even with the help "GAP" provides, there are months where my income is not enough to meet our daily needs. We are very thankful for your efforts. May God bless you abundantly in return!"

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the team for all the work and efforts at GAP. This ministry has been a great blessing in my life these past few weeks and I am very grateful for all I have received."



CHRISTMAS EVE @ PIONEER

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Pioneer Family Life

Opening Voluntary

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly • Kenneth Logan

Introit

Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus • Kenneth Logan

Christmas Call

Dwight K. Nelson

PASTOR: On this Day in which we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus,
may you be welcomed and blessed.

PEOPLE: And may you be blessed.

PASTOR: Why have you come on this glorious Sabbath?

PEOPLE: We have come, like the shepherds and the wise men,
to worship the Christ Child.

PASTOR: But He is not here—He is risen, ascended and soon to return.

PEOPLE: But we come to celebrate that the Infant of Bethlehem was
and is our God, our Savior and our Lord.

PASTOR: Then like sages with gifts and shepherds with wonder,
let us come and adore Him.

PEOPLE: We have come to worship Him.

PASTOR: Then may He be glorified and may all be blessed this
Christmas Eve Sabbath.

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Carols of the Season

Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child • 133
Angels From the Realms of Glory • st. 1-3 of 119

Family Prayer

Don Dronen
O Come, All Ye Faithful • st. 1 of 132

One Family's Story

The Gimps Atisme Family

Offering

Michigan Advance Partners
IN DULCI JUBILO (In Sweet Jubilation) • Hermann Schroeder

Children's Story

What Child Is This? • 141

Christmas Scripture

Luke 2:1-7 NKJV • Angella & Singegu Katenga

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christmas Music

When Love Was Born • Mark Schultz

Christmas Homily

#RxF4Now—The Christmas Robe:
A Meditation on the Swaddling Cloths
Dwight K. Nelson

Appeal

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne • 140

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

SUSSEX CAROL • Traditional Carol

PRESIDING PASTOR: Don Dronen; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Ryan Clough, tenor; Jennifer Clough, piano

CLARINET: Gabriel Halsey

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

TONIGHT • 5:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

We invite you to attend a special Christmas program honoring
Christ's first advent here at PMC.

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service

Vladimir Slavujevic

Opening Hymn

Good Christians, Now Rejoice • 136

Scripture & Prayer

Mateja Horonic • John 1:10-12

Special Feature

"What About Jesus's Birth" • Josip Horonic

Offertory

Bible Study

"The Character of Job" • Classes

Theme Song

Make Me a Blessing

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.
Out of my life may Jesus shine.
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

"Make Me a Blessing," Ira Bishop Wilson

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Benediction

Vladimir Slavujevic

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: Jonathan Doram, piano

| TRANSFERS IN |

ATISME, Glimps
 BARNUM, Alexandra
 BRAMUCCI, Madison
 BRAMUCCI, Mekhi
 EDWARDS, Aileen
 HARVEY-BRAMUCCI, Nicole
 JAMES, Michael
 JAMES, Sarah
 MBAIWA, Galaletsang

| TRANSFERS OUT |

ANDRADE, Cristiane
 ANDRADE, Erick
 ANDRADE, Nicole
 ANDRADE, Rodrigo
 DUBOV, Alexander
 HEISEY, Dean
 HEISEY, Deborah
 MNGO, Zachary
 NAMIREMBE, Angeline
 ORDAZ, Heidi
 SHOCKEY, Brian
 THUMBALAMOTO, Jedidah
 VILLANUEVA, Elia Lopez
 WEBBER, Ashley
 WEBBER, Jeff
 WESTON, Camille

| FROM |

College Heights • Lacombe, AB Canada
 Village • Berrien Springs, MI
 Mount Vernon, NY
 Mount Vernon, NY
 Paradise Valley • National City, CA
 Mount Vernon, NY
 Alamosa, CO
 Alamosa, CO
 Broadhurst • Gaborone, Botswana

| TO |

Luso Brazilian • Corona, NY
 Luso Brazilian • Corona, NY
 Luso Brazilian • Corona, NY
 Luso Brazilian • Corona, NY
 City • Glendale, CA
 Brayton • Graysville, TN
 Brayton • Graysville, TN
 Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia
 Mt Tacoma • Tacoma, WA
 Village • Berrien Springs, MI
 Meriden, CT
 Southeast • Cleveland, OH
 Spanish • Eau Claire, MI
 Holland, MI
 Holland, MI
 Sligo • Takoma Park, MD

SUBMIT announcements by emailing bulletin@pmchurch.org or by going to www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
PMC Operating Expense

SUNSET TODAY • 5:18
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:23

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 31 |

SHARON TERRELL

A Sign of Love Complete
(Single Service at 11:45 AM)
Communion

| 01 • 07 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"Storm: A Call to Prayer"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

MICHIGAN ADVANCE PARTNERS

Today, as we celebrate Christmas Eve, we remember Jesus' first coming to this earth. The signs of the times tell us that Jesus' second coming is very near. He will not return as a baby but as the King of kings. Our offering today supports efforts to share the Good News in Michigan and prepare people to meet Jesus. Thank you for partnering with all of heaven in this effort.

Christmas Eve at PMC

TODAY • 5:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

We invite you to attend a special Christmas program honoring Christ's first advent here at PMC.

GROW More Hope in 2017

Lead a GROW Group between February 20 and April 30, 2017. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. (1) Think of a subject or activity that you are passionate about. (2) Invite at least 2 others to join you. (3) Sign up at www.pmchurch.org/grow so that more can join. Help us grow more hope, community and friends for Christ in 2017! For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Sabine at growgroups@pmchurch.org or 269.471.6153.

Christmas Project

After 50 years of strict communist rule, the doors are finally opening to equip Cuban pastors and Bible workers with crucial resources like technology, transportation, and ministry materials. Help today by "adopting" a project like a computer, a bike or a tablet. Checks payable to PMC. Mark your envelopes "Cuba." Visit CareforCuba.org for more information. Your donation of any amount is 100% tax deductible and will change many lives in Cuba, guaranteed! Join the team by donating today!

Instruments for Cuba

Do you have a small wind or string instrument that is not being used or is forgotten in your closet? Dozens of kids in Cuba would love to have it and learn how to play. Donate it today and make a child sing for joy as we will personally take it to Cuba. Simply drop the instrument at the MDiv office (Seminary building), or call 269.471.3538 or write to mdivstudy-tour@andrews.edu. Give the gift of Music. Donate an instrument today!

PMC Youth Mission team in Honduras

Our PMC Youth Mission team has completed an outstanding Friendship Camp at the REACH International school in Honduras. As co-directors Josés Ngugi and Eliana Iller provided excellent leadership for the camp. Additionally many hours of service were provided to children's home. Glenn Russell, Mission team leader, reports that "We have seen many answers to prayers. The 22 member team also provides large Christmas food donations to over 50 families in the community. Thank you for your prayers and support of PMC youth missions."

Pathfinder Apple Pies

Apple pies are still available while supplies last from the Evergreen Pathfinders. Email evergreen.pathfinders@gmail.com with your order and they will arrange a pick-up.

Church Kitchen

Some things are missing from our church kitchen. Please make sure any items you may have borrowed from the kitchen are returned. Thank you!

Year-end Contributions

December 31 is the last Sabbath to return your tithe and offerings for 2016. If you plan to bring in a donation, our office is closed December 30. Your donation needs to be postmarked no later than December 31 to be included in your 2016 tax deductible receipt. You can also make your contribution online. Go to www.pmchurch.org and click on Giving. Contributions made by 11:59 PM on December 31 will be included in your 2016 tax-deductible receipt.

PMC Office Closed

The PMC office will be closed on Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday. We will be open at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 27, and look forward to serving you.

We Mourn

Today we mourn with the Luyeho Family on the death of Rahabu Luyeho. Rahabu passed away on December 1. The funeral was held at the Allred Funeral Home on December 16. We also mourn with the Weber Family on the death of Walter Weber. Walter passed away on December 15. A memorial service will take place December 29 at 11 AM in the PMC Youth Chapel. With these families we look forward to the resurrection morning. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Get Our E-Letter!

Receive PMC's e-Letter, Pioneer Mid-week, for weekly updates about church life, events, and more! Subscribe today at www.pmchurch.org/newsletter.

H2O Fit Class Holiday Break

The H2O Fit class is taking a break for the holidays. Join us when we resume on January 10.

ToBoFit Class Holiday Break

ToBoFit class is taking a break for the holidays. Join us again when we resume on January 9.

AU Mission Trip to Haiti

On March 17, 27 students will be flying to the city of Port-au Prince, Haiti, during spring break. They will be building an addition onto an orphanage, provide a medical clinic, as well as put on a VBS program for the children. Your financial support would be greatly appreciated as they go to be Jesus' hands and feet. You can donate by going to www.andrews.edu/go/give/2cm and in the instructions box write, "Students Haiti."

Media Team Volunteers

The PMC Media Team is looking for volunteers for the new year. We are looking for people willing to help in multiple areas including with the PA/audio systems, operating cameras for the telecast, and putting together and operating the sermon graphics. Experience is welcome but not necessary. Take this opportunity to discover what happens behind the scenes of a global media ministry. For more information and on-the-job training, email mediateam@pmchurch.tv.

More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at www.pmchurch.org/announcements.

MUSIC ALIVE

THE CHILD, AND CHILDREN

Worship begins today with music about the Christ Child, and with associations with children in general. "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (hymn 127) is a Polish carol thought to be from the 1400s. Its English textual version is a translation by London-born Edith Reed. Reed was an organist who was particularly interesting in "making music more attractive to children," as one commentary puts it. The carol's

tune name is translated "in manger lies." "Come to My Heart" draws its text from hymn 140, but with an updating to contemporary English. The original hymn by Emily Steele Elliott was presented to choir members and children of a parish school in Brighton, England in 1864. It appeared in a "juvenile" magazine shortly after. Yes, celebrating and responding to the Child is for children—of all ages. ■

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TRANSFORMING
THIS **GENERATION**



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