

# Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church

(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

*"John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"*

*[John 1:23]*



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Pastor 'Debo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel who sent a messenger to announce the coming of His Son Jesus Christ.

**P:** *Merciful God, thank you for keeping your promises made through the holy prophets.*

L: John the Baptist in the power of the Holy Spirit baptized the people with water for repentance of sins.

**P:** *We praise you Lord for sending Jesus Christ who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

L: John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

**P:** *Holy Spirit, make us faithful heralds pointing others to Jesus Christ our soon coming King.*

## \*ENTRANCE TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

## \*OPENING HYMN

# 567

"Heralds of Christ"

## \*The Apostles Creed

# 881

## \*Gloria Patri

Hymn # 70

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

TFWS # 2090

(Soloist & Congregation to sing 4<sup>th</sup> stanza after lighting of Candle)

## SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 4:14-16

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Pastor 'Debo

## HYMN

"His name Is Wonderful"

# 174

## 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

John 1:29-39

## MESSAGE

Pastor 'Debo

**This Same Jesus: John the Baptist & Jesus The Lamb of God**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

# 240

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

## \*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\*For those who are able, please stand.

## Week At A Glance:

### Sunday, December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

### Tuesday, December 24, 2024

6:30p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Christmas Day (No Pastor's Bible Study)

### Saturday, December 28, 2024

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



## CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER 2024

### Birthdays

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

*Happy Anniversary*

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 22, 2024  
(Fourth 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](mailto:aaonabanjo@yahoo.com)  
Office email: [sixthgmc\\_email@yahoo.com](mailto:sixthgmc_email@yahoo.com)  
Church: (740) 653-1196  
Fax: (740) 653-6780  
Website: [6thavegmc.org](http://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.

**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 started 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. On 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. Last Sunday, December 15 we looked at the story of two of the credible witnesses that encountered the Christ Child, Simeon and Anna. Today, we will look at the story of the birth of Jesus and His public ministry as heralded by John the Baptist. 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.” (Acts1:10-11).* Please prepare your heart for worship on this 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. **There will be no Pastor’s Bible Study on Wednesday December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day) and Wednesday January 1, 2025 (New Year’s Day).** We however highly recommend that you spend some time during this Christmas Season to read and reflect on the stories of Jesus Christ recorded in the gospel accounts as it relates to His birth and start of His public ministry. Last Wednesday December 18, we studied the most popular public sermon of Jesus Christ, (The Sermon on The Mount) recorded in **Matthew 5-7**. We also encourage everyone to read the similar Sermon on the Plain recorded in **Luke 6:17-49**. 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. **We will resume our weekly gathering on Wednesday January 8, 2025.**

**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).

**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. Copies of the materials for the Message Series will be made available to all members.



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## **WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS (December 22, 2024 – December 28, 2024):**

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

### **Sunday December 22 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11; Reflection Verses: Isaiah 40:3

“A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: In what way (s) are followers of Jesus called to prepare the way for His second Advent? In what practical way can you do this?

### **Monday December 23**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11; Reflection Verses: Isaiah 61:1-2

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What do you understand by Jesus quoting the passage from Isaiah in **Luke 4:18-19**? Why did He leave out the part about “the day of vengeance of our God?” How can we help prepare everyone for “the day?”

### **Tuesday December 24**

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:1 & 4:5-6; Reflection Verse: Malachi 4:1

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Who is the Prophet Elijah identified by Jesus Christ? (see **Matthew 11:14 & Luke 1:17**)

### **Wednesday December 25 (Christmas Day)**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20; Reflection Verses: Luke 2:6-7

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Do you have room in your heart for Jesus? If not, will you prepare Him room today?

### **Thursday December 26**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25; Reflection Verse: Matthew 1:21

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: What is the most significant reason that we celebrate Christmas? Have you accepted the salvation that Jesus offers? Have you shared the good news with others?

### **Friday December 27**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12; Reflection Verse: Matthew 3:3

“This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: I will prepare the way for the second Advent of Jesus Christ.

### **Saturday December 29**

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-8; Reflection Verse: Mark 1:8

“I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Reflection Question/Action for the Day: Are you baptized with the Holy Spirit? What is the evidence of this in your life?

Hebrews 4:14-16

New International Version

### **Jesus the Great High Priest**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,<sup>[a]</sup> Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

John 1:29-39

New International Version

### **John Testifies About Jesus**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."<sup>[a]</sup>

### **John's Disciples Follow Jesus**

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

<sup>39</sup> "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel who sent a messenger to announce the coming of His Son Jesus Christ.

**P: *Merciful God, thank you for keeping your promises made through the holy prophets.***

L: John the Baptist in the power of the Holy Spirit baptized the people with water for repentance of sins.

**P: *We praise you Lord for sending Jesus Christ who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire.***

L: John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

**P: *Holy Spirit, make us faithful heralds pointing others to Jesus Christ our soon coming King.***

## **\*The Apostles Creed**

–

# 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.**