

Sunday Field Services

Domestic Mission Field Activity
West Avenue Church of Christ

December 23, 2018

SupplyTree.jpg

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On the cover: 300th Sustainment Brigade stands by their Christmas to show gratitude for the Christmas trees sent from the United Service Organization – Dallas / Fort Worth and American Foreign Legion – 379 on Dec. 17, 2018, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (U.S. Army Reserve Photo by Capt. Jerry Duong)

Services Today

- Joy to the World 1018
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Reading** Micah 5:2-5
- This Is My Father's World 991
- O Come, All Ye Faithful 997
- I'll Be List'nin 988
- **Reading** Psalm 80:1-7
- There Is Power in the Blood 903
- **Communion**
- Let the Lower Lights Be Burning 642
- **Sermon** Does Audience Character Matter?
- **Closing Song** Be with Me, Lord 778
- **Closing Prayer**

1018.jpg

Plate I: CCLI 1299261

Reading

Micah 5:2-5 states in the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation:

Bethlehem Ephrathah,
you are small among the clans of Judah;
One will come from you
to be ruler over Israel for Me.
His origin is from antiquity,
from eternity.
Therefore, He will abandon them until the
time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of His brothers will return
to the people of Israel.
He will stand and shepherd them
in the strength of Yahweh,
in the majestic name of Yahweh His God.
They will live securely,
for then His greatness will extend
to the ends of the earth.
He will be their peace.
When Assyria invades our land,
when it marches against our fortresses,
we will raise against it seven shepherds,
even eight leaders of men.

Even in the midst of the troubles during the time of the prophet Micah, the coming of Jesus was spoken of as a future event. We sing today of the miracles and great works of Jesus. From the context where Micah stood, remember that the ministry of Jesus had not happened yet.

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Plate II: CCLI 1299261

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Reading

Psalm 80:1-7 in the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation states:

Listen, Shepherd of Israel,
who leads Joseph like a flock;
You who sit enthroned on the cherubim,
rise up
before Ephraim,
Benjamin, and Manasseh.
Rally Your power and come to save us.
Restore us, God;
look on us with favor,
and we will be saved.
Lord God of Hosts,
how long will You be angry
with Your people's prayers?
You fed them the bread of tears
and gave them a full measure
of tears to drink.
You make us quarrel with our neighbors;
our enemies make fun of us.
Restore us, God of Hosts;
look on us with favor, and we will be saved.

903.jpg

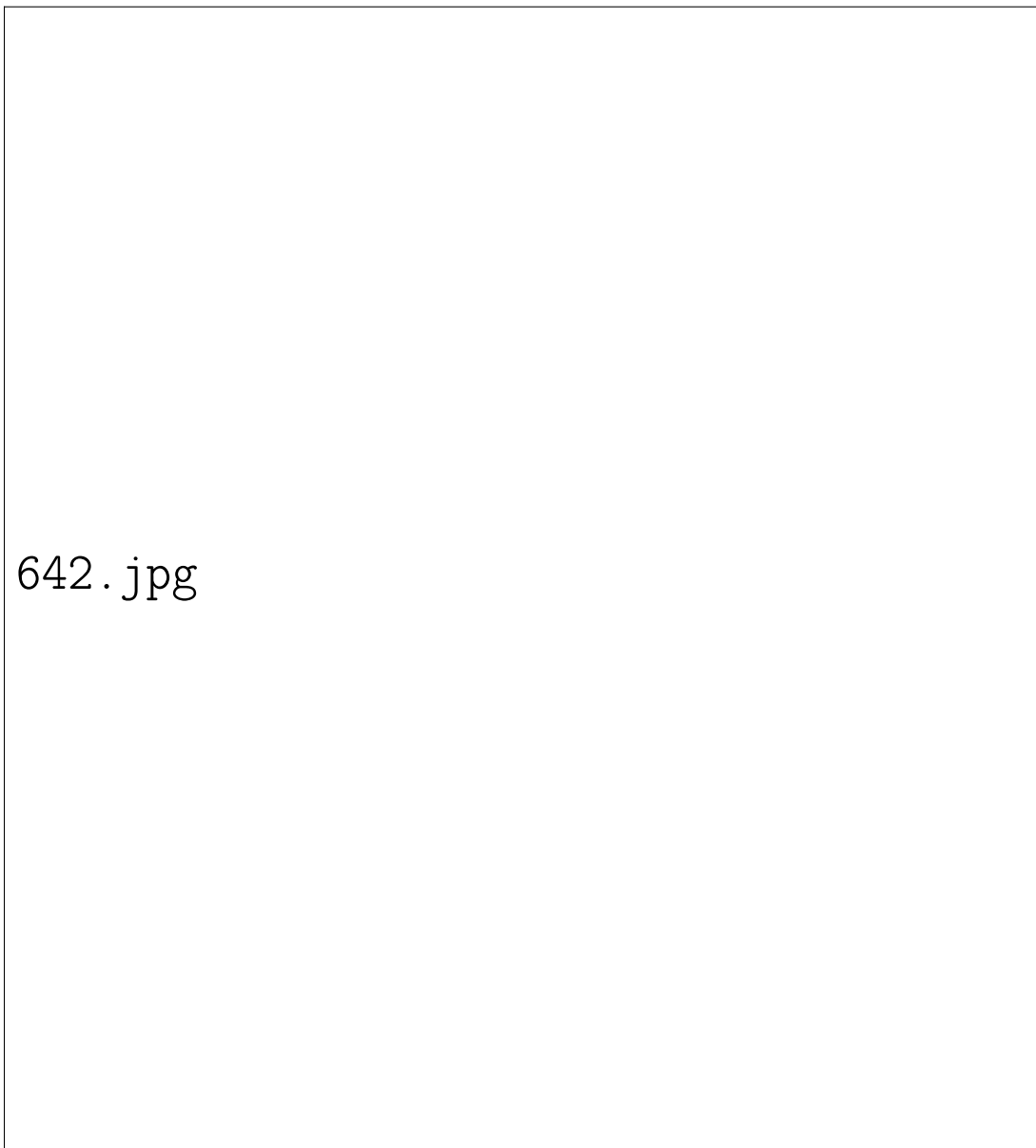
Reading for Communion

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 in the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Let us pray...



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Plate VI: CCLI 1299261

The Lesson

At any point around Christmas, there is going to be much reading of scripture. Today is no exception with Christmas coming up on Tuesday. We begin with a somewhat longer reading from Luke's gospel in chapter one verses 39 through 55 as follows:

In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she exclaimed with a loud cry:

"You are the most blessed of women,
and your child will be blessed!

How could this happen to me, that the mother
of my Lord should come to me? For you
see, when the sound of your greeting
reached my ears, the baby leaped for
joy inside me! She who has believed is
blessed because what was spoken to
her by the Lord will be fulfilled!"

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,
because He has looked with favor
on the humble condition of His slave.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed,
because the Mighty One
has done great things for me,
and His name is holy.
His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear Him.
He has done a mighty deed with His arm;
He has scattered the proud
because of the thoughts of their hearts;
He has toppled the mighty from their thrones
and exalted the lowly.
He has satisfied the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped His servant Israel,
mindful of His mercy,
just as He spoke to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his descendants forever.

This is known in some traditions as Mary's Song celebrating that God selected Mary to bear the Jesus. At this point in the year we celebrate in many ways the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God. In the world at

large, He is often called "the reason for the season".

Jesus has a very direct purpose on Earth and in our lives. He was the perfect sin offering. We celebrate His birth knowing that He had to save us all. After we covered not just the ministry of Jesus but also the adventures of Paul we turn to the book of Hebrews where we review a sermon where we don't have it recorded who the author was.

The unnamed preacher in Hebrews 10:5-10 (HCSB) is recorded as stating:

Therefore, as He was coming into the world,■

He said:

You did not want sacrifice and offering,
but You prepared a body for Me.

You did not delight
in whole burnt offerings and sin offerings.

Then I said, "See—

it is written about Me

in the volume of the scroll—

I have come to do Your will, God!"

After He says above, You did not want or delight in sacrifices and offerings, whole burnt offerings and sin offerings (which are offered according to the law), He then says,

See, I have come to do Your will. He takes away the first to establish the second. By this will of God, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

In many ways, Christmas is the answer to Israel asking for God to be with them. God was with them through the Son. Christmas is where we celebrate when The Word became flesh and came down to Earth.

Amazing things then continue to impact us throughout the ages. That's a great thing to be thankful for.

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Plate VII: CCLI 1299261

About Us

West Avenue Church of Christ is located at 5901 West Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio. The located preacher is Michael Williams. Our leaders are Elmer Ford and Hays Wood. We meet Sundays at 10:30 AM for worship with bible study earlier at 9:30 AM.

The Domestic Mission Field Activity is an effort for outreach by the congregation. The Activity undertakes a variety of works as appropriate. We are implementing a video narrowcast channel for the congregation online that members of the public can join. Serving today from the Activity were Stephen Michael Kellat and Michael John Kellat.

