

DEACONS' PAGE

Please keep in thought and prayer:

John Mason recovering from surgery

John Belt recovering from an accident

Betty Blystone recovering from surgery

Hannah Walker's sister, dealing with serious health issues

Ken Schnabel's mother undergoing chemotherapy



Our sympathy to:

Bill Gillette and family on the death of his wife, **Beverly** on November 13

Congratulations to:

Natalie McTarnaghan who celebrated her 90th birthday on November 1st

Marcia and Sandy Way on their new home in New Hampshire

Mary (Harder) and Chad Kaufman on the birth of their son, **Dylan James Kaufman**, born on October 28

THE PRAYER SHAWL GROUP will meet on Tuesday, December 6 in Room 16 at 2:00 p.m.

TABITHA CIRCLE will meet next in January. The December meeting date is the same night as the Women's Candlelight Dinner. Stay tuned for further announcements.

REBECCA CIRCLE meets next on Monday, December 12 at Papa Joe's Restaurant on Spencerport Road at 12:00 noon.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

This opportunity for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer is open to everyone. Even if you have never been to a Bible study gathering before, come join us! We meet in the Junior High Lounge (Room 16) every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30. It is not required but if you would like to read ahead, here are the scripture texts we will be studying:

December 7th - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

December 21st - Luke 2:1-20

December 14th - Luke 1:26-38

December 28th - NO BIBLE STUDY

SECURITY SYSTEM UPDATE

To offer increased safety to our staff and community, motion activated security alarms will be installed in the offices of the pastors and secretary. These offices will no longer be accessible without deactivating the system. Signs will be placed on the office doors as a reminder.

DECEMBER NURSERY AND TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

Date	Nursery	Toddler Room
December 4	Christine Cook	Jeannie Bauman/Ian Unson
December 11	Donna Schott	Velta Rouchon/Valerie Fong
December 18	Barb Snaith	Jeff Tuttle/Brian Bullis

Young Children

Parents...Are you looking for ways to instill the real meaning of Christmas in your children's lives? Here are some suggestions and opportunities to help you do that:

- Use the Advent Calendars that we sent to your home as a springboard to daily discuss ways you can prepare for the birth of Christ.
- Attend the Advent Festival on Friday, December 2nd. It will focus on the real meaning of Christmas, along with sharing dinner with family and friends and doing a craft.
- Attend the Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m. designed specifically for children. The Young Children's Committee would like to extend warm wishes to all families for a meaningful Christmas season!

** There will be no Sunday School classes or child care in Nursery and Toddler rooms on December 25 and January 1.

JR. CHOIR NEWS 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

This month we will be putting our efforts into preparing music for the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. One of our pieces asks, "Can this be another ordinary Bethlehem night?!!" On Christmas Eve we will literally *shake our heads* in wonder as the story unfolds- this is definitely NOT another ordinary Bethlehem night!

We welcome you to join us as we celebrate God With Us, EMMANUEL!!

PUBLIC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Date	Lay Reader	Front Door Greeter	Usher Team
December 4	Rick Howe	Keith Hadley	1
December 11	Sue Birkbeck	Sherry Nau	2
December 18	Jim Meddaugh	Irene Ward	3
December 24 (4:30)	Carrie Dykes	John Belt	4
December 24 (8:00)	Tom Ward	Alison Steinmiller	5
December 25	Barb Snaith	Dave Fish	6

Communion – Sunday, December 4

Left: 1. Dave Fish

2. Erica Strawbridge

3. Chuck Goodykoontz

4. Tracy Vander

Right: 1. Nancy Hossenlopp

2. Jeff Tomkinson

3. Cathy Goodykoontz

4. Gretchen Greene

Women's Candlelight Dinner - Tuesday, December 13th

On Tuesday evening, December 13th the women of Gates Presbyterian Church are invited to join in a 30-year holiday tradition, the Candlelight Dinner. Once again, by popular demand, it will be held at Rick's Prime Rib Steak House on Buffalo Road.



We will be having Prime Rib on the menu again this year. We will begin selling tickets on Sunday, November 6th and all the remaining Sundays in the month of November and the 1st Sunday - December 4th in the Fellowship Hall. The price has gone up and will be sold for **\$20.00** a person. We will also continue to support ABW ("Alternatives for Battered Women") by bringing in personal items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, sanitary items, etc.

Also, we NEED two volunteers that would be able to take the items to ABW for us (please confirm your willingness to assist us prior to the dinner). We hope you can join us for this wonderful, popular evening to socialize with women members of our church and hopefully make new friends!! Should you have any questions, please call Barb Snaith at 247-9066.

Attention all musically talented women!! We would like to highlight many members of our church that play musical instruments. You know who you are! Please let Barb know if you are able to play one of your favorite Christmas Carols at our Candlelight Dinner.

A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

Shouts of "Merry Christmas!" and non-stop caroling contrast with the feelings of many people at this time of year. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, for those whose families are in crisis, for those who have recently lost a job, who are suffering from physical or mental illness, or for those who just can't get into the holiday spirit it can be a very isolating and dreary time. Every greeting and every song reminds the grief-stricken of how unhappy life is at this moment.



It's at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons we invite you on **Thursday, December 8th at 7pm** to come and join in sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

DRIVERS NEEDED

One of our drivers for Marjorie Woods is moving out of town. Marjorie lives on Howard Road about five minutes from church and likes to attend church services twice a month. The driving is shared with another person, so we only need one more person to transport Marjorie once a month. If you can help, please contact Paula Sousa at 247-6812.

YEAR END EXPENSE REMINDER

Please be sure that if you have any invoices that need to be paid, receipts for which you need reimbursement, or check requests, you should turn them into the treasurer in a timely manner. As we approach the end of the year, it is important that we are reflecting up-to-date expense numbers. Please try to have this information into the office by December 15th. Please contact Tracy Burkovich at 721-6262 with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Fund Balances as of October 31, 2011:

Endowment Fund = \$154,974.90

Mustard Seed Fund = \$79,391.85

Memorial Fund = \$40,544.72

Contributions to date toward 2011 Pledge Goal: \$253,441 84.7%

Weekly Sunday Service Attendance:

October 23	October 30	November 6	November 13
203	182	205	197

The Stewardship and Budget Committee would like to thank all those who brought their gifts to God's table on or before Sunday, November 13th. We are all grateful that we have a very faithful and generous congregation! If you have not yet turned in your 2012 pledges of giving and Time and Talent, please do this at your earliest convenience. A group of volunteers will be making phone calls in early December to those we have not heard from so that we can present the most up-to-date report of our 2012 budget at the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11th.

Again, *Thank You and God Bless You* for your faithful stewardship of money, time and talents that you so willingly share with GPC. We will do our best to manage those gifts to the glory of God!!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

December 26 – Office closed

December 27 – 30 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Normal office hours resume on Monday, January 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.



ADULT EDUCATION IN DECEMBER

December 4th Alternative Advent Market

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a wonderful variety of items to start your holiday shopping!

December 11th Book Swap

Bonnie Beckett will coordinate the event that will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please drop off any and all books that you want to swap at church between now and December 10th.

December 18th Christmas Caroling

Kris Ohman will lead us in an opportunity to sing our favorite Yuletide songs.

FROM THE MISSION/PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE by Dave Fish

Mission has been a pillar of our church for as long as we have been a congregation. As I have grown in faith I have been lifted up by the many feet that have walked in what I like to say "Jesus' Shoes". Now in a time of, Reluctance To Take a Chance I call on my family to look to a new way of Mission. I encourage you to find me on Sunday, to call me anytime, and come to church on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Some of you know I have a penchant for breaking the rules. I have a personnel rule not to quote scripture but I am finding maybe this is a good time to break my own rule.

MATTHEW 10 vs 5-15

⁵⁻⁸Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge:

"Don't begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don't try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.

⁹⁻¹⁰"Don't think you have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start. You don't need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light.

¹¹"When you enter a town or village, don't insist on staying in a luxury inn. Get a modest place with some modest people, and be content there until you leave.

¹²⁻¹⁵"When you knock on a door, be courteous in your greeting. If they welcome you, be gentle in your conversation. If they don't welcome you, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way.

This is the charge that Jesus gave his 12. Believe we can do the same. In the upcoming new year there are plenty of ways of doing mission. From creating a community garden, to tutoring at risk kids to going out to the fringes of our community to serve those who live on the margins of society. We have committed ourselves to putting on "Jesus' Shoes". Are you ready to break rules with me? We have an awesome rule breaker to follow - JESUS!

GPC Advent Mission Opportunities

The Advent of Light reflected through GPC Advent Mission Projects

The GPC Mission/Peacemaking Committee has provided you and your family with many opportunities to shine the Light of Christ in our neighborhood, city, and world. We suggest that you talk with your family about the different options and choose, as a family, the ones in which you would like to participate.

Alternative Advent Market – Second Hour - December 5 - Fellowship Hall

Come and shop where the gift gives twice: to the loved ones for whom you are buying AND to the non-profit organization to which you are supporting.

You will be able to purchase the following:

- a. **Books from the Good Book Store**
A percentage of the profit is returned to our own library.
- b. **Entertainment Books**
The **Guatemala Group** is selling these to support projects in our Guatemala mission sites.
- c. **Gourmet coffee and tea from Equal Exchange**
Equal Exchange seeks to balance the inequities found in the conventional coffee trade. It is a worker-owned co-op that offers gourmet coffee directly from small-scale farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
- d. **Heifer Project gift donation cards**
Heifer Project gives animals to impoverished rural families around the world. You receive a handsome gift donation card for your loved one while a global neighbor receives a farm animal for their family's nutrient needs.
- e. **Socks for homeless guests of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality**
Buy a pair of socks for one dollar. The socks go to a guest at St. Joseph's and you receive a gift card of your donation.
- f. **Pencils for the Green Island Basic School**
Pencils sell for \$1.00 – perfect stocking stuffers. Money received for the pencils to support the building of the Green Island Basic School.
- g. **Rally4Weber Jewelry**
Money received from the purchase of Jewelry will be donated to the Weber Fund in support of Brian Weber.
- h. **Girl Scout Cookies**
Part of the proceeds from the sale of Girl Scout cookies goes to the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley and the other part will benefit Troop #60500 in Gates.
- g. **One World Goods**
Proceeds will benefit Third World Countries.

The GPC Mitten Tree

The GPC Mitten Tree proudly stands in the hall shouting its long history as an Advent Project of GPC. This year it invites you to fill its branches with gloves/mittens and hats/scarves for the men and women of DePaul Mental Health Services of Rochester and their families.

Christmas Dinner Baskets for SWEM (Southwest Ecumenical Ministries)

Due December 11

Help provide a Christmas dinner for a family in need living in the Southwest quadrant of our city. The following requested list from SWEM is for a family of 3-4. The five dollars that goes with the meal is used to purchase a chicken, eggs, and margarine. If you feel creative, decorate the box that holds your dinner and add some small candies, mints, instant coffee, or tea bags. Please don't include gifts, toys, clothing, etc.

1 can of fruit cocktail or other canned fruit	2 cans of soup
1 large can of fruit juice	1 box of instant mashed potatoes
1 large canned sweet potato	1 can of cranberry sauce
3 cans of vegetables	1 bag of stuffing mix
1 or more relish/pickles/olives	\$5.00 in cash
1 cake mix and frosting or pie crust and filling	

Members of the Mission/Peacemaking Committee will be in the parking lot to receive your dinner on Sunday, December 12th. Please hand your money to them separately from your dinner.

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality – December 17th - GPC serves lunch

Folks from GPC will serve lunch on December 17 at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. The meal will be prepared at GPC on December 16th. There is a sign-up on the Kiosk for the following:

Donations: Bring to GPC December 16th noon

Cooks: GPC kitchen, 6:30 pm December 16th

Servers: Meet at St. Joseph's at 10:30 on December 17th. Plan to stay until 2:00 p.m.

This mission site serves lunch to those in our city with limited financial resources.

Christmas Joy Offering – Received in worship on December 18

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Christmas Eve Offering – Green Island Basic School

This year the Christmas Eve worship service offerings are designated again for the Jamaica Basic School construction project. This five year long range mission project began in 2007. We are currently in the fourth year of our long range goal – to build a Basic School in Green Island, Jamaica.

Basic School Update: There are plans to start the building of the school this year with a completion date of 2012. There is ongoing communications with the co-pastor of the church, Mrs. Hyacinth Cooke-Burte. We are quite excited with the current development of this project and will continue to provide updates to you on an ongoing basis.

Cameron Community Ministries Giving Tree

The Cameron Community Ministries (CCM) Giving Tree will be in the foyer on November 27th decked with opportunities to give to the children in the CCM After School Program and their parents. This year we have been asked to assist CCM in two areas.

1) CCM offers a safe place to be after school for elementary school children in the neighborhood, most of whom attend School #30. The primary emphasis is on homework completion, tutoring, and positive behavior and conflict resolution. **There will be a Christmas Party for students in this program and we have been asked to provide specific gifts for the event. *Simply pull a PURPLE tag from the tree, shop for the item, place it in a gift bag with tissue paper, put the tag on the outside of the bag, and bring it back to church by Sunday Dec 18th at 10AM. (Note: Since all the children will be opening their gifts together, we need to keep them of equal value. Please keep it around \$20 if you can. For example, if you pull a tag for a Barbie Doll and buy one for \$12, you can add in a Barbie outfit or accessory to get it to \$20.)***

2) CCM serves a free hot meal six days/week to people in the Cameron Street neighborhood. They serve over 37,000 free meals per year. The meal is filling and nutritious, with fresh fruit and vegetables. In addition to nutrition, guests are provided with access to a variety of other valuable services. **Each year, just days before Christmas, a hot holiday meal is served. After the meal guests have the opportunity to “shop” for a gift for a loved one at a table of new unwrapped household items. We have been asked to provide household items for this event. *Simply pull a PINK tag from the tree, shop for the item, DO NOT wrap it or put it in a gift bag, put the tag on the outside and bring it back to church by Sunday Dec 18th at 10AM.***

Despite bad weather the Wheel-A-Thon was a huge success!

We made \$3,315.50! All donations will help to support youth mission work projects. GPC youth thank you for supporting them so generously! They also thank you for graciously overlooking the fact that they did not “wheel” the Canal Path due to bad weather. The youth did attempt a Dance-A-Thon. As a result of the day, the Youth Committee has designed a bad weather alternate plan for future years. If it rains on Wheel-A-Thon Sunday, the Wheel-A-Thon will become an indoor Action-A-Thon with activities that require physical (and fun) movement for four hours (approximate time of Wheel-A-Thon). Thanks again GPC!

From the Associate Pastor.....

Red, yellow, leaves floated from the trees. It was the middle of November and warm enough to wear my sandals. In my mind, that's a perfect fall! Listening to my radio, contemplating the events of the day, I drove into GPC's parking. What????red, yellow leaves were floating down on a huge Christmas tree lying in the front lawn!!! Could it be - our GPC Christmas tree had arrived and was waiting in the front lawn??? Our GPC Advent theme came to my mind "People Longing".forget people, this poor tree was going to be "longing" for water by the time it was proudly placed in its Christmas tree stand. I, however, quickly reminded myself that Christmas tree farmers need to cut their trees in mid-November in order to meet the retail needs of December. Without a doubt, it will be beautiful! Many thanks to the Stewart/Hossenlopp family for this gift from their Christmas tree farm. Year after year, their trees welcome us to Advent and remind us of the coming Light of the world.

"People Longing"indeed, we are a people longing. Like the Christmas tree in the front lawn, evidence of the changing seasons of our lives float upon us. We are mystified about what the next season will bring. We long for clarity. We work too hard and worry too much searching for that clarity. Uncertainty seems to invade our economy, our government, even our own lives. It is easy to spiral down in fear, anxiety, and depression. "People Longing", our 2011 Advent theme invites us to touch the "longings" of our hearts. What are your longings - for yourself, your family, our world? Advent is about touching those deep places within our souls with the confidence that God sent Jesus to the world to reassure God's people that God's promises were real and reliable - that in the midst of uncertainty there is one certainty - Jesus Christ.

The cultural glitz of the "holiday season" makes it's hard to find the time and the place to do this spiritual exploration. Let us, however, make it a priority. We can step out of the "hustle and bustle" for quiet time with Godfor God longs for us to hear the promises God made to us in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season filled with a few sacred quiet moments.

December Youth Calendar

December 1	–	Senior High Youth Advisor's meeting – time tbd Jamaica Mission Trip payment due
December 2	–	6:00 – Family Advent Festival
December 3	–	2:00 Senior Highs leave for overnight
December 4	–	9:00 Youth Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Junior High Church School 1:00 Senior Highs return from overnight Junior High Youth Group – time tbd
December 6	–	7:00 – Youth Committee
December 11	–	9:00 – Youth Choir 10:00 – Worship/Youth Choir sings with Adult Choir 11:15 – Congregation Meeting
December 18	–	9:00 – Youth Choir 9:30 – Christmas Band 10:00 – Worship 11:15 – Jr and Sr High Church School 6:00 – Senior High Youth Group 6:00 – Junior High Youth Group
December 24	–	4:30 – Christmas Eve Service 8:00 – Christmas Eve Service
December 25	–	10:00 – Worship No Church School – Family Sunday
January 1	–	10:00 Worship No Church School – Family Sunday No Youth Group

Senior High's – a great overnight for you!

Palm Tree Water Park – Clarion Hotel - Batavia

December 3 to 4

Meet at GPC on Saturday at 2:00 – return to GPC on Sunday 1:00.

Cost: \$50.00

To sign-up for this great event, put your check and permission slip in the box in CA's office. The deadline to sign-up is November 27.

Youth Group in December

December 4

Junior High's – Movie night at Tinseltown – time tbd by movie
Senior High's - overnight - no Youth Group Sunday night

December 18

Junior Highs – Christmas Caroling followed by treats at Frona's
Senior Highs – 6:00-8:00pm GPC

7th-12th gradersIt's almost time for the Genesee Valley Movie Madness! January 15/16

Come spend the night in the Greece Ridge Center Regal Cinema 12 with youth from all over the Presbytery.

\$25.00 – includes three movies, pop, popcorn, candy

Meet at GPC at 10:30 pm on the 15th. Have your parents pick you up at 7:30 am on the 16th at the theater.

FIRM deadline to sign-up – January 8th – put check and permission slip in the box in CA's office

Jamaica Mission Trip Participants December to do list:

December 1 - payment due - \$250.00

Get your: Passport and your Hepatitis A shot

REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY!

Come early on Sunday, December 18th to enjoy Christmas carols played by our own GPC instrumentalists as they join together in the spirit of the season! Players will meet in the Worship Center at 9:20 and play until the service begins. If you have any questions, or would like to look at music ahead of time, please see Dennis or Debbie White.



VALET SERVICE

Anyone needing assistance walking from their car to the Church this winter should first pull up to the parking attendants and advise them that you would like assistance. In addition, should you need assistance after worship is over, let the attendants know this as you walk into Church. Also, please look around you as you are getting out of your car and offer to help anyone looking as though they could use a little assistance to walk safely into the building. Let's all be part of this valuable valet service to those who need a little help.

- Thank you from the Membership and Visitation Committee



This fun and meaningful event is designed for all generations. For families, it offers activities that focus upon Christmas, not the "Holidays." For older folks, it offers a fun way to meet the young families in our congregation. For all, it offers an evening of fun, food, and fellowship!

No cost - donations accepted.

GPC MEN'S INVITATION

Join the men this month for breakfast on **Thursday, December 1st at 8:00 a.m.** (the first Thursday of each month). Our breakfast location is **Mr. Beenz 1941 Buffalo rd** (by Wendy's).

Also join the men at **6 p.m.** for dinner on **Thursday, December 15th** (the third Thursday of each month). This month we will be gathering at **"Pixley's Restaurant"** 2235 Buffalo Rd.



**DECEMBER 25TH
COMFY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!**

Join us on Sunday, December 25th for a worship service with singing your favorite Christmas carols and hearing the story of Christmas. Everyone is invited to attend worship in their pajamas or casual clothes that are comfortable for them.

Special Note to Parents: Don't worry about trying to separate your children from their new favorite toy. They are welcome to bring one quiet toy to play with during the service.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who
Helped in
Any way to make our
Notorious **CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR** a
Knock out success!



You made it happen!!
Otherwise, there would be no **CHURCH MOUSE BAZAAR**
U are wonderful!!!

Kay Harder, Barb Snaith, Debbie Lamphron
Co-chairpeople for the Church Mouse Bazaar

Life Is an Advent Season CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

Advent 2011: People Longing for . . .

Restoration

Hope

Comfort

Presence

Have you ever longed for something? I mean *really* longed for something? You know, that deep yearning and desire for something you just could not wait to have or taste or experience or hold?

Perhaps it was the perfect Christmas gift that wasn't under the tree. That feeling after all the gifts had been unwrapped you tried to push away because you were thankful for everything that had been given to you, but that one special gift was still missing. The feeling that bubbled up right before your parents "found" or "remembered" the gift that was hidden in the closet or out in the garage.

Longing for is about more than what is tangible or can be. Surely we can relate to the not so distant longing for the end to that hectic or stressful day, or perhaps the dawn of a new morning, the fresh start after painful mistakes. Perhaps you longed for one more day with a loved one, a familiar face in a strange place, or the passionate embrace of a partner.

Do you remember those feelings of longing and desire? Do you remember the expectation, the hope, the waiting?

Our longings are human: natural and normal desires for something more, whether it is as simple as a longing for a new possession or as complicated as a desire for another.

Our faith ancestors also had longings and desires, visions of a different life, images of a world of peace and prosperity. Written following the harrowing exiles of both Judah and Jerusalem, this prophetic vision in the book of Isaiah articulates for the Israelite people their own deep desire for a different world, a better life, free from oppression, war and violence; a vision of a return to their homes and their families, a return to their way of life and to their God.

Isaiah speaks to the people of Israel from within their own place of waiting. Captives in Babylon, longing for the God of Sinai to tear open the heavens and come down, the people of Israel wait in the midst of a desperate and despairing world.

We, too, know what it is like to live in a less than perfect world and long for something better. We know what it is like to wait impatiently for the vision we proclaim in scripture and worship, don't we?

In worship each week during Advent, we will center ourselves in the ways which we are a "People Longing . . ." for restoration, comfort, hope, and presence in a waiting world today.

Melissa

