

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

*THE BLESSING

*(The worshipers' candles are extinguished
when the Pastor's candle is extinguished.)*

*THE CAROL "Joy to the World" 246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

THE POSTLUDE

**Please stand if able.*

*Please remember to take your poinsettia home
with you after the service.*

Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania



8:00 P.M.

LEADING in WORSHIP

PREACHING: Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller
LITURGIST: Rev. John Shellenberger
ORGANIST: Nicholas Werner
SOUND TEAM: Jim Murdoch & Roger Walton
ACOLYTE: Elizabeth Wertz

Welcome, Friends,
*to First Church and to this celebration.
Christmas is a time of joy, a time of remembrance,
a time of hope, a time of sharing, a time of worship.
In this hour together we endeavor to focus
our minds and spirits on the meaning
and significance of all that is Christmas.
The God of the universe, the God of the ages,
comes to us in human form, as a baby,
not only to express God's love to us, but to save us.
It is an incredible, miraculous,
wondrous event, which we remember and celebrate.
Your presence makes this service holy
and pleasing to God. Thank you for coming.*

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2017

8:00 pm

THE PRELUDE "Christmas Medley and Improvisations"
arr. by J. Purifoy and N. Werner

GREETING

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Christmas

*RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Tonight, we conclude our Advent journey as we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the one promised in scripture.

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We celebrate the hope brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: We sing of peace on earth and good will to all people.

People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

Leader: And we lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting Father.

**People: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!
Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*SONG..... "Adore Him"

Countless days on a journey that led so far
Endless nights they travelled to follow the star
They did not find a palace
Just a humble village home
And searching for a King
But finding a Child no crown no throne
Still they bowed down
Come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
(Christ the Lord)

Expectation turned to mystery
For nothing was like anything they'd dreamed
Anticipating the royal
And those honored by this world
Instead they gazed in the awestruck eyes
Of a lowly peasant girl
Holding her Child

Come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
(Christ the Lord)

The brilliant gold the fragrant myrrh
The costly frankincense
Placed before Him

*OPENING PRAYER

THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY "Silent Night"
arr. by Mark Hayes

*RESPONSE "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE FIRST LESSON..... Isaiah 9:2-7 (CEB)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"What Child Is This"..... Janice Bowen & Trent Yatsky

Arr. by Stephanie Jackson

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 2:1-20 (CEB)

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION..... Pastor Keller
"Unwrapping Christmas: Restart"

THE CAROL..... "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" 240

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On a night like tonight

We have much to thank you for, Gifting God:

For you sent your Child to shine among us

While we were still under the shadow of death.

You broke the yoke of sin and loneliness that burdened us.

You dwelt among us in justice and truth,

Giving grace and peace.

And so we join the angels' song to the shepherds:

Glory to God in the highest heaven

and peace on earth to all of good will.

Teach us, Child of Bethlehem, Prince of Peace,

to follow your example of righteous living and good will to all.

As you broke your life open in our midst at Christmas,

as Jesus grew to share bread with his disciples and followers,

so we remember you as we break bread together this night.

Be among us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ was promised; Christ is born;

Christ will dwell among us.

At this table unify our hearts and lives

that we may be your people

who return to the world glorifying and praising you

through our living,

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Spirit,

Three-in-One. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins)

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*Familiar carols will be sung during the time of communion,
at the direction of the musicians:*

Pages 217, 218, 224, 229, 249, 250 (stanzas 1-2 of each).

*THE CANDLELIGHTING

*(The lighted candle is always held upright
when giving light to another.)*

*THE CAROL "Silent Night, Holy Night"(vs. 1-4)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child,

Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven a-far,

heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;

radiant beams from thy holy face

with the dawn of redeeming grace,