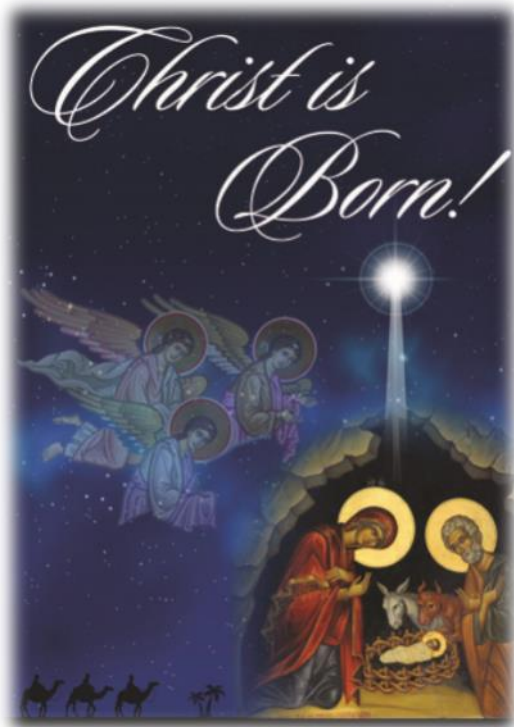


Welcome to
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
11:00 pm



135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg
717-766-4611
www.fumchurch.com

Sunday Services
Worship: 8:15 AM, 10:45 AM
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 AM



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.*

LEADING in WORSHIP

PREACHING: Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller

LITURGIST: Rev. John Shellenberger

ORGANIST: Frank Heberlig

SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR: Flossie Ryder

SANCTUARY CHOIR: Allison Ometz

SOUND TEAM: Bob Bittenbener & Michael Garman

ACOLYTE: Elizabeth Wertz

PRELUDE

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

*OPENING PRAYER

*CAROL..... "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1, 3, 4, 6) 234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; Refrain

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps. Refrain.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*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)

*THE CAROL “Angels from the Realms of Glory” 220

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Saints, before all altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

THE SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-20 (CEB)

ANTHEM “Bethlehem, O Bethlehem” Combined Choirs

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION“Calm & Bright” Pastor Keller

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

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 (sings)

BREAKING THE BREAD

ANTHEM.....“Away in A Manger”..... Combined Choirs
Derrick Ometz—clarinet

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.)

*CAROL Silent Night, Holy Night (vs. 1-4) 239

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,
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 BENEDICTION

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

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN "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.

POSTLUDE

**Please stand if able.*

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

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