

Welcome to

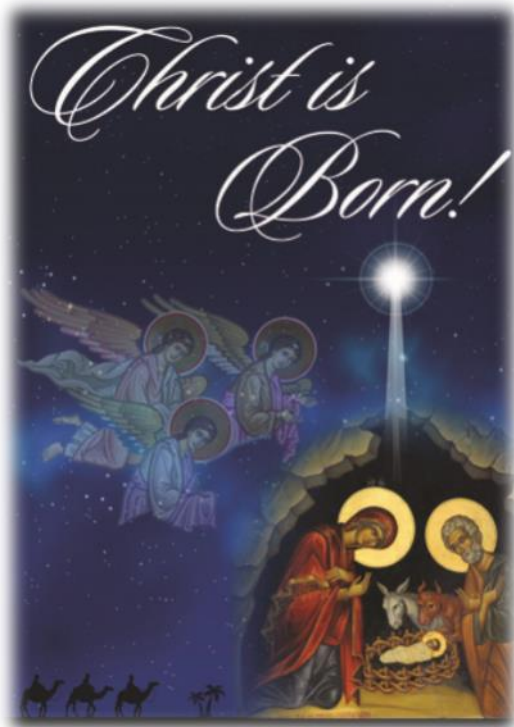
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2018

8:00 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

SOUND TEAM: Ken Rapp & Roger Walton

ACOLYTE: Gavin Smith

PRELUDE "What Child Is This"

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

*CAROL..... "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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

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 heav'n above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest

Come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

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

We'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever
Christ the Lord

We'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever
Christ the Lord

*OPENING PRAYER

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

*CAROL "What Child Is This"

What child is this who,
laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

This this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe the son of Mary.

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

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION "Calm & Bright" Pastor Keller

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY "The First Noel" Trace Morgan & Allison Ometz
arr. by Jerry Ray

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.)

*CAROL "Silent Night, Holy Night"

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 BLESSING

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

*CAROL "Joy to the World"

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.

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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