

*Welcome to*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Opening Doors with Christ, One Another, and Our Neighbors*

*Christmas Eve*

*December 24, 2019*

*11:00 pm*



135 West Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg

717-766-4611

[www.fumchurch.com](http://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 hearts on the Good News of great joy.*

*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.*

*Thank you for coming.*

**LEADING in WORSHIP**

**PREACHING:** Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller

**LITURGIST:** Rev. John Shellenberger

**ORGANIST:** Caleb Flick

**SOUNDS OF WORSHIP CHOIR:** Flossie Ryder

**SANCTUARY CHOIR:** Sarah Pugh

**SOUND TEAM:** Bob Bittenbener & Michael Garman

**ACOLYTE:** Andrew Smithmyer

PRELUDE .....“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” ..... Caleb Flick  
Arr. Rolin B. Mains

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 ..... "In dulci jubilo" ..... Caleb Flick  
Marcel Dupré

\*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..... “Sing, Choirs of Angels” ..... Combined Choirs  
Arr. Victor C. Johnson

*(The congregation will be invited to sing along.)*

***Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

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!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heav’n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel,  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION ..... “The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy” ..... Pastor Keller

Anthem..... “The Yearning” ..... Combined Choirs  
By: Craig Courtney

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

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

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

*Pages 217, 218, 219, 229, 230, 245, 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 ..... "Allegro vivace assai" ..... Caleb Flick  
Felix Mendelssohn

*\*Please stand if able.*

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

## **Ministry Staff**

### **Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller  
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### **Assistant to the Pastor:**

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### **Sounds of Worship Director:**

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### **Director of Bell & Chime Choirs:**

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### **Praise Team Co-Directors:**

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### **Organists/Accompanists:**

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### **Director of Little Friends Preschool:**

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### **Director of Juniper Tree Counseling Center:**

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