

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues  
Moorestown, New Jersey

**Christmas Eve 2009                      6:00 p.m.                      Family Candle Lighting Service**

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

*Welcome! We are happy that you have come to worship here this Christmas Eve.*

*We invite you to open your heart to the message of the birth of Christ,  
proclaimed in Word and Music, and to sing with us these songs of joy!*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME IN SONG**

Primary Choir

**Worship Leader,** Karen Murray  
Mendelssohn

**OPENING HYMN 240**

**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!"

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.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**THE PROPHET ISAIAH SPEAKS** "...For unto us a Child is born."

Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

*Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before the birth of Jesus!*

**HYMN 196**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Charles Wesley

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.	Born thy people to deliver born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.
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**THE NEW COVENANT**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*Jeremiah describes what the Messiah will bring...*

**HYMN 219**

**What Child is This?**

William Dix

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. (Chorus) <i>This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary.</i>	So Bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come, peasant, King to own Him. The King of Kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
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**THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR**

Luke 2:1-7

*"...she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

**HYMN**

**Mary's Boy Child**

Long time ago in Bethlehem  
So the Holy Bible say  
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ  
Was born on Christmas day.

Now Joseph and his wife Mary  
went to Bethlehem that night  
And found no place to lay their head  
Not a single room was in sight.

(Chorus)

*Hark now hear the angels sing  
a new King born today  
That folks may live forever more  
Because of Christmas day.*

While shepherds watched their flocks  
by night they saw a bright new shining star  
And from the East there came  
three men, bearing gifts from afar.

**HEAVEN REJOICES**

Luke 2:8-20

*"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us."*

**HYMN 238**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

**PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**MINISTRY IN MUSIC**

Welcome, Dearest Jesus  
Junior and Wesley Choirs

Kemp

**LITURGICAL DANCE**

"Christmas Shoes"

by Newsong

**MEDITATION**

Pastor Steve Donat

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CANDLE LIGHTING AND CAROL SINGING**

Children are welcome to hold a candle with a plastic drip protector. Parents, please take responsibility for your children, to preserve their safety and the beauty of our Sanctuary!

**See insert for words....**

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER Following prayer, please extinguish all candles.**

*Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving, and trust in you to take away all our fear. Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN 246**

**Joy to the World**

Isaac Watts

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.

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.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**ACOLYTE:** Jessica Hagmaier

Thanks to *Amaranthine* our youth led praise band for leading us tonight! The First UMC Praise Team leads worship here each Sunday morning at 9:30. Come and worship with us at any of our services – 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 on Sunday, or Saturday Vespers at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

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*Have a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas!*

**NEW YEARS EVE COMMUNION**

A service of Holy Communion will be held in our Sanctuary on Dec. 31, at 9:00 p.m.

We would like to encourage you to make this a part of your evening’s agenda as we welcome in a New Year remembering our common hope in Christ Jesus.

**STAFF OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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|---|--|
| Steve Donat, Senior Pastor  | Joan Flamini, Office Administrator   |
| HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor                                 | Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary                                       |
| Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music                                  | Sue Harris, Parish Nurse   |
| Karen Murray, Dir. of Christian Education                         | Bill McIlmail, Property Coordinator  |
| Brad Kenney, Youth Director                                       | Steve Bixby, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator                            |
| Devika Gill, Pre-School Director                                  | CCLI License No. 782839  |
| Church Office: 235-0450   |  |
| Web: <a href="http://www.meetwithGod.com">www.meetwithGod.com</a> | E-mail: <a href="mailto:church@meetwithGod.com">church@meetwithGod.com</a> |