

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PLEASANT VALLEY AND CAMDEN AVENUES
MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY**

CHRISTMAS EVE 2010 10:30 PM CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR’S BIRTH

Welcome! We are pleased that you have come to worship here this Christmas Eve. We invite you to open your heart to the Good News of the birth of Christ, proclaimed in word and music, and to sing with us and the angels songs that celebrate his coming!

PRELUDE God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen Brass Choir
Echo Carol
Wexford Carol
Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella
A Virgin Most Pure

O Tannenbaum Adult Handbell Ringers
O Come Little Children
Christmas Carol Fantasy

O Holy Night Brad Kenney, Soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, the Lord has come!

People: Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the son of God, is born this night.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness – on them a light has shined.

Leader: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

People: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: He is our Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

***HYMN 220** Angels From the Realms of Glory

***INVOCATION**

Eternal God, as you came to the world in the birth of the Christ child, come to us this night. Come into our hearts and shine your light upon our path. As you brought your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love to the world in the form of the babe of Bethlehem, so bring to us his radiance and help us to glorify both Him and You. We ask that the fullness of his life might live in us, and that at his name every knee bow, and every tongue confess, that He is Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN 240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UNISON PRAYER

Lord, we have rushed through Advent, just to get to this time, the time of the birth of the Christ Child. We have tried to slow down, to wait, to watch, to listen. We have rejoiced at the blessings given and the wonder of this incarnation. But we have to admit that we are still very drawn to our own celebrations and obligations. Free us this night to truly celebrate the wondrous birth of your Son. Give us the light that will warm our lives and illuminate our pathways of service. Forgive us when we stumble and fall. Lift us again and place us on the pathway to your Son. AMEN.

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!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Away In a Manger Adult Choir
SCRIPTURE READING *The Announcement to Mary* Luke 1:26-38
HYMN 238 Angels We Have Heard on High
SCRIPTURE READING *Prophecy Fulfilled* Luke 2:1–20

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Mary’s Lullaby Rutter
Adult Choir

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “*From Darkness to Light*” Pastor Steve Donat

CANDLE LIGHTING

CAROL SINGING *(See Insert)*

***CLOSING PRAYER** **The Canticle of Simeon**

Leader: The holy child of Bethlehem has come to us this night.

People: We have welcomed the Prince of Peace.

Leader: Now, like Simeon, that righteous and devout man who looked forward to the consolation of Israel and who beheld the coming of our Lord Emmanuel, we pray:

People: Lord, let your servants now depart in peace, according to your word; for our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Please Extinguish All Candles Following the Prayer

***RECESSIONAL HYMN 246** Joy to the World!

***BENEDICTION**

***THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***POSTLUDE**

ACOLYTES: Samantha Bewley, Rebekah Bryan

BRASS QUARTET: Andrei Shidlowksi, Bill Hosbach, Fred Reimers, and Jim Weinhouse

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Steve Donat, Senior Pastor
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music
Karen Murray, Dir. of Christian Education
Joan Flamini, Office Administrator
Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Brad Kenney, Youth Director
Sue Harris, Parish Nurse
Devika Gill, Pre-School Director
Steve Bixby, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Bill McIlmail, Property Coordinator

We worship here each Sunday morning at 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
Saturday Vespers at 5:30 p.m.
Come and worship with us!

HAVE A BLESSED AND CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS

NEW YEARS EVE COMMUNION – WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

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 remember our family in Christ, and our only true source of hope, as we welcome in a New Year.

Church Office Contacts

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(CCLI License No. 782839)