

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues

Moorestown, New Jersey

Christmas Eve 2012 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!*

Karen Murray, Worship Leader

PRELUDE Rejoice, Rejoice!
Away In a Manger

Jubilation Chimers

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

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!

LITURGICAL DANCE Wonderful Counselor

THE NEW COVENANT Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah describes what the Messiah will bring to us...

HYMN 217 Away In A Manger (William J. Kirkpatrick)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask Thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

(Public Domain)

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."*

SONG The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy (Spiritual)

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy (3x's)

And they said that his name was -- Jesus.

Refrain: He come from the Glory, he come from the glorious Kingdom (2 x's)

The Angels told where the baby was born...(etc.)

The shepherds saw where the baby was born...(etc.)

The wise men went where the baby was born...(etc.)

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 Come to Bethlehem and see
sweetly singing o'er the plains, Christ whose birth the angels sing;
and the mountains in reply Come, adore on bended knee,
echoing their joyous strains. 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 Shepherd, Where Are You Going? Primary Choir

Mary Had a Baby

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Sing Hallelujah to the Newborn King Junior & Wesley Choirs

MESSAGE The Christmas Story Pastor Steve Donat

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CANDLE LIGHTING AND CAROL SINGING

Battery operated candles are available for small children. 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.

Gracious and Loving God, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Kelly Hagmaier

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Have a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas!

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION

A service of Healing and 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.

Come and worship with us at any of our services

Saturday 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Sunday mornings 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00

STAFF OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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: www.meetwithGod.com	E-mail: church@meetwithGod.com