

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PLEASANT VALLEY AND CAMDEN AVENUES

MOORESTOWN, NEW JERSEY

A community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ  
with a hurting world through words and actions

DECEMBER 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11:00 A.M. Service

## PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo  
Once In Royal David's City  
Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King  
Brass Quartet

## WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All creation holds its breath.

**People: The time is almost here.**

Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

**People: Excitement is all around us.**

Leader: Prepare your hearts – The grace of God takes on human form.  
Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

**People: We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

### LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Donna Baner

### HYMN 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**\*OPENING PRAYER:** This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfillment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

### \*RESPONSIVE READING

A Christmas Litany

Leader: Right from the beginning God's love has reached, and from the beginning man has refused to understand. But love went on reaching, offering itself. Love offered the eternal...

**People: we wanted the immediate.**

Leader: Love offered deep joy...

**People: we wanted thrills.**

Leader: Love offered freedom...

**People: we wanted license.**

Leader: Love offered communion with God Himself...

**People: we wanted to worship at the shrine of our own minds.**

Leader: Love offered peace...

**People: we wanted approval for our wars.**

Leader: Even yet, love went on reaching.

**People: And still today, after two thousand years, patiently,  
lovingly, Christ is reaching out to us today.**

Leader: Right through the chaos of our world, through the confusion of our minds.

He is reaching... longing to share with us... the very being of God.

**People: His love still is longing, His love still is reaching, right past the shackles of my mind.  
And the Word of the Father became Mary's little Son. And His love reached all the  
way to where I was.**

Gloria Gaither

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

The Apostles' Creed

### \*GLORIA PATRI 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end! Amen. Amen.

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Let the Bells of Christmas Ring

Louis Harris

Adult Choir and Handbell Ringers

### CALL TO PRAYER 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: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.*

*Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary. (Public Domain)*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### CHORAL AMEN

**WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST** - We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning. Please fill out the Friendship Pad and pass it along to the person next to you and then pass back to the center aisle. Write any special prayer requests on the sheets provided in the pew racks and place in the offering plate.

### PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Sussex Carol

setting by Dale Wood

Adult Choir and Brass Quartet

### \*DOXOLOGY 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*HYMN OF PREPARATION 218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

### SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 2:6-7

### MESSAGE

How Silently, How Silently

Pastor Richard Nichols

### \*CLOSING HYMN 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**\*GOING FORTH:** The Benediction

Brass quartet music arrangements were composed by John Jay Hilfiger, Art Leiby, and Jeff Lowden.

Brass quartet: Rachel DiPilla, Bill Hosbach, Jeff Lowden, and Andrei Shidlowski.

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR FRIENDS** and your 1<sup>st</sup> UMC family in Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning before this service. Come for coffee, tea, lemonade and continental breakfast from 10:30-11:00. Just follow the path outside Fellowship Hall or wind your way inside the Education Building, to get to the Sanctuary for the 11:00 service.

**A NOTE TO PARENTS:** Child care is available in Room E101 for children up to age four. We love children and little ones are welcome in our worship service. On those days when your child is fussy, the parlor located behind the sanctuary provides an excellent place to care for your children and still participate in the worship service. There is a powder room right outside the parlor that can be used for changing diapers.

**USHERS:** Ed White, Becky White, Ralph Adamson, Robert Durand, Gene Kindig, John Renouf

**GREETERS:** Craig & Peggy Koenitzer **ACOLYTES:** Anna Youse, Lucas Harsche

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Helga Shay

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:** Worship: 554 Sunday School: 72

**PLEASE LET US KNOW...** If you or someone you know is ill or in the hospital, please let the church office know so that we can help in the healing process through our prayers, visits, food preparation, etc. Thank you!

**PRAYERS & SYMPATHY TO:** Rob & Linda Wanagas and family on the death of Rob's sister, Barbara Wilson.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Carolyn Emme, Rick Loring (son of Dick Loring), Laura Gould (sister of Ed Youse), Doug Nemeth (son of Dot & Zollie Nemeth), Karen Pearce (mother of William Pearce), Susan Moody (daughter-in-law of Joan Moody), Jane Mertz, Barbara Lobe, Tom Bintliff, Jr. (friend of Doug Hamilton), Norman Adams (husband of Betty Adams), Ron Griffith, Kaelyn Joyce (granddaughter of Jack & Dorothy Schweitzer), Lissa Herman (friend of Carol Talbot), Bruce Simmons & Charlotte Froman (friends of Ed & Mary Lou Nelson), Janet Brown (friend of Carol Taylor), Rev. Richard Thawley, Sam Wang (cousin of Elite Law), Lynda Rodriguez (daughter of Bob Rodriguez), Lee Talbot, Mary Schick (friend of Linda Wanagas), Doug Carty, Becky Wentworth (friend of Linda Wanagas), Tom Bahneck (son of Thomas & Gloria Bahneck), Robb Murray, Kathryn Machamer (mother of Kathy Clawges), Doris Irwin (friend of Alice Brenner), Joe DeCesare (friend of Joyce Scheyhing), Gloria Despres (mother of Kristine Daglian), Gary Graham (father of Brad Graham), Mike Pilenza (friend of Greg Bryan & Dick Loring), Denny Flamini (son of Dennis Flamini).

**SERVING OVERSEAS IN IRAQ:** Specialist L. Colby Cooper, boyfriend of Abigail Sell.

**The Staff of First United Methodist Church**

Richard Nichols, Senior Pastor	Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor	Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music	Devika Gill, Pre-School Director
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Ed.	Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator
Kathy Clawges, Youth Director	(CCLI License No. 782839)

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