

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

CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

11:00 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

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella Brass Quartet
Mary Had a Baby
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
O Christmas Tree
People, Look East Adult Handbell Ringers
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Gesù Bambino Andrei Shidlowksi, Euphonium

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 234 O Come, All Ye Faithful** Verses 1, 3, 4

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**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Let us go, in heart and mind,

People: to see what has come to pass.

Leader: Let us go with the shepherds:

People: Let us go to find the Savior!

Leader: Let us go with the wise ones:

People: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

Leader: Let us go with the poor and humble:

People: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

Leader: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

People: Christ the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER: God of Surprising Love and Hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Leader: In the quiet of the night, we have heard God's truth;

People: A personal word of life given for our redemption.

Leader: In the quiet of the night – In the quiet of this night -

People: We are called to act.

Leader: We are called to care.

People: We are called to share

Leader: A personal story of Christmas,

People: A personal story of salvation.

Leader: In the quiet of this night

People: God sends us to be living faith:

Leader: A personal invitation,

People: A personal voice of hope,

Leader: A personal hand of service,

People: In our day-to-day acts,

Leader: In our day-to-day relationships.

People: May God grant that it be so. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Once in Royal David's City

Adult Choir and Handbell Ringers

Frenz

Helvey

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

THE CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE

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.

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

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

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!

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

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

PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

MINISTRY OF MUSIC What Is This Lovely Fragrance (French Carol)

Adult Choir and Brass Quartet

Willan

THE CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE

The Christmas Story...according to Jesus Christ

Pastor Richard Nichols

HYMN 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

verses 1, 3 & 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;

above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Congregation: We will let the light of Christ shine in us.

CANDLE LIGHTING AND CAROL SINGING

See insert for words for carol sing

CLOSING HYMN 246

Joy to the World!

Verses 1, 2, 4

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.

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**

***POSTLUDE**

***The People Stand**

ACOLYTES: Taylor Marcinek, Rebekah Bryan

BRASS QUARTET MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS were composed by John Jay Hilfiger,
Art Leiby, and Jeff Lowden.

BRASS QUARTET: Rachel Di Pilla, Bill Hosbach, Jeff Lowden, and Andrei Shidlowski

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Have a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas!

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

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

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