

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues

Moorestown, New Jersey

Christmas Eve 2018

8:00 P.M.

Candle Lighting Service

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 the songs that proclaim his birth!

PRELUDE

Angels from the Realms of Glory

WELCOME

Karen Murray, Worship Leader

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Charlotte Miller

***SONG FOR CHRISTMAS**

Light the Advent Candle

Verse 5

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

People: And on earth peace, good will toward all people.

Leader: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: Glory to God on High.

Leader: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all people.

OPENING HYMN 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verses 1, 3, 6

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.**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **Refrain** *(Public Domain)*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: We praise you, hidden God, that in Jesus Christ, you have come to us to speak your Word of love and life. Touch us with unearthly joy, like the singing of angels; fill us with wonder, like the eyes of children; teach us to humble ourselves before you, like the worshipping Magi. May your journey to the manger be only the beginning of a lifetime of service to Jesus our Christ. Amen.

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Leader: He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.

People: He came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

Leader: He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

People: To a world like ours, of anguished shame he came, and his Light would not go out.

Leader: He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

People: In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

Leader: We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,

People: for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Norm Dorrell, Marimba

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:9-14

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

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

All 4 verses

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! *(1964 Abingdon Press)*

PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Joseph's Song

Norm Dorrell

THE CHRISTMAS SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

HYMN 245

The First Noel

Verses 1,2,3,5

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their
intent, and to follow the star where ever it went. *Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

MESSAGE

The Light that Never Goes Out

Pastor Tom Korkuch

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! *(Public Domain)*

THE LIGHTING FROM 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**

ACOLYTE: Tyler Hare

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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

Thomas Korkuch, Senior Pastor	Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor	Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Donna Banes, Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leaders	Devika Gill, Pre-School Director
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Ed.	Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator
Kathy Clawges, Youth Director	

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