

## Order of worship

December 9, 2018

10:00 am

**Introduction to new Doxology for Advent - Pam Kukucka**

**PRELUDE** *(Please enter Sanctuary in quiet prayer/meditation.)*

**Pam Kukucka**

**OPENING WORDS**

**Nancy Harding**

**\*\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(please stand)*

*Leader:* Let us open our hearts and minds to God's loving Spirit.

**People: May we serve the Lord with gladness and enter his house with singing and with praise.**

*Leader:* For God is good!

**People: His mercy is everlasting and his truth endures to all generations!**

**\*\*OPENING HYMN "Come Thou Almighty King"**

**UMH # 61**

**INVOCATION**

**Nancy Harding**

*Leader:* Holy God, open our hearts that we might love just a little more each day.

**People: As we celebrate the birth of your Son; open our minds and Spirit to the wonders of this life. Come into our presence this morning and help to respond with love and readiness to serve.**

*Leader:* Instill in us this great power to move each other, to find compassion and support one another in your loving hands.

**People: Help us to understand through human birth; the newness of life, the strength of hope and the love that brings peace to a turbulent world.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - Virginia Ahart**

*Reader:* Today is the second Sunday of Advent. The candle of Hope has been lit to remind us that life is long process. *(relight Hope candle)*

We now light the candle of peace; to reawaken us to God's assurance, his love and affection for us. God's great power is made real to us through the gift of Jesus, so that we can feel the peace of God within us. Let us then take pause and remember those that we love and those that love us, but let remember too how we have experienced God's love in our lives. *(light the candle of Peace)*

**People: Awaken us, O Heavenly God, to the mystery of your gift to us. May we pray and discern the Christmas story and let it enter our hearts**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

**Rev. David F. Hurst**

**O God as the Christmas season unfolds, give us the awareness to celebrate in love and in kindness to others. Forgive us when we envy, or revel in someone else's losses. Forgive us when our priorities are askew and we become part of the problem rather than the solution.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Rev. David F. Hurst**

*Leader:* Through the blessings of God, through the Holy Spirit and Christ our Lord, we are One in God. Through our sincerity and God's grace, we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God**

**\*\* \*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Eduardo and Children**

**PSALTER READING:** Psalm 98 (red hymnal Pages 818-819 0)

**Nancy Harding**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Rev. David F. Hurst**

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**\*\*\*RESPONSE: "Glory Be to the Father"**

*"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"*

**SCRIPTURE READING: First Lesson - Malachi 3: 1-4**

**Nancy Harding**

(Chair Bible OT pg. 28)

**\*\*\* HYMN OF PREPARATION: "When Morning Gilds the Skies"**

**UMH # 185**

**SCRIPTURE READING: Second Lesson - Luke: 3: 1-6**

**Rev. David F. Hurst**

(Chair Bible NT pg. 57)

**SERMON "Be Ready for God's Gift to Happen"**

**Rev. David F. Hurst**

**MINISTRY OF GIVING**

**\*\*\*DOXOLGY: "What Gift Can We Bring" (Verse #2)**

**UMH # 87**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*\*PARTING HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emanuel"**

**UMH # 211**

**BENEDICTION [ from Philippians 1 and Malachi 3]**

*Leader:* May your love become rich. May you be refined like gold and silver. This is the gift of Jesus Christ!

**People: May we serve Him without fear and be found without blame on the day that He comes again. For God is faithful to us. Let us open our hearts so that God may finish his work in us.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Pam Kukucka**

Rev. David is available for appointments, consultations and visitations. Please contact him at any time. 1-413-426-6041 or: dfhurst@verizon.net

Altar flowers this morning are given in memory of Ruth Parsons by her daughter Rebecca Parsons.

Attendance for last Sunday was: Adults 40 Children 2

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*\*TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR ORDERING YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA. BE SURE VIRGINIA RECEIVES YOUR ORDER AND PAYMENT.**

**\*\*\*GIVING TREE:** Our Local Missions Committee is accepting donations through Sunday, December 16th of Adult hats, mittens, gloves and socks along with children's P.J.s of all sizes. There are reminder cards on the clothesline. Drop your donations under the tree.

**\*\*\*CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Our Christmas Eve Service will be held on Monday, December 24th at 7PM and will be a service of Candlelight, Scripture and Songs. We will also have our 'Special Puppet Friends' joining us. There will be a light refreshment following the service. If there are two people available to stay following the service to assist with refreshment and clean-up, please let Pam know.

**\*\*\*BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor David will continue with Bible Study in January.

**\*\*\*2018 Annual Giving** - Now is the time to bring your this year's Annual Giving Pledge up to date or you may wish to give additional monetary funds to the church before the end of the year. Your Annual Giving is tax deductible.

### **Week of December 9th - Second week of Advent**

Sunday, December 9th - Morning Worship 10:00am

Puppet Practice (Sanctuary) 11:30am

Wednesday, December 12th - Office Hours 9am - 2pm

### **Week of December 16th - Third week of Advent**

Sunday, December 16th - Morning Worship 10:00am

Puppet Practice (Sanctuary) 11:30am

Wednesday, December 19th - Office Hours 9am - 2pm

**Mark your calendars for Christmas Eve Service Monday, December 24th @ 7pm!**

### **CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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