

Order of worship

December 17, 2017

10:00 am

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS

Art Cooper

***CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the midst of waiting, God sends us a wonderful invitation,

People: A lit candle in the window bids us to come home.

Leader: The wreath on the door welcomes us to come in!

People: The conversation the hustle and bustle of life calls us to be engaged and be a part of God's creation.

Leader: Let us gather and worship God.

People: Let us rejoice, sing and pray together; worshiping with great joy.

***OPENING HYMN " "

UMH #

INVOCATION

Art Cooper

Leader: O great and wondrous God, we gather to celebrate your love and grace.

Come into our hearts for we wish to learn to love rightly and fairly.

People: O God, Help us to realize that we are a part of life that is greater than ourselves. We seek you, O Lord, in ways that only you understand and recognize. Leader: Help us to know you and to feel your presence as we encounter our world. Restore us, forgive us, and open our hearts so that we might do your will.
People: Grant us your salvation and peace during all the challenges and trials of life. Come to us dear God in all our days

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - Virginia Ahart and Roxie Pin

1st Reader: As we gather around the Advent Wreath, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and celebration.. We relight the candles of Hope and Love; understanding how waiting can strengthen us and give us the patience to believe for the long haul. [Light the two purple candles]

2nd Reader: As we sing songs of joy and our hearts open to God's love, help us to pause in wonder. For Christmas is the time to worship.. It is a time to draw near to God, and rejoice grateful for what God has given to us.

[Light the pink candle]

Readers: We wait and watch as Christmas comes to us. Let us rejoice, laugh and care for those for those who have past.

ALL: O God help us to remember that true joy comes from serving one another. When the hungry are filled with good things, the lowly are lifted up and relationships are restored. May your love flow through us, out into the world, giving birth to great rejoicing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [in unison] Rev. David F. Hurst

O Heavenly God, as Christmas draws near open our hearts to forgive those around us for the transgressions that we might remember and never let go of. Help us to forgive ourselves for the transgressions that we have committed and grant us the willingness to reunite with those we have differences with. Forgive us our reluctance to do the right thing. Help us not to hold back and speak out for what is just and fair for all those we encounter.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all transgressions.

People: Thanks be to God

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE

Psalter Reading: Psalm 126 (Red Hymn Book pg. 847) Carolyn Burrows

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, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Carolyn Burrows

First Lesson: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 (chair Bible OT pg.691)

*****Hymn of Preparation "" UMH #**

Second Lesson:John 1:6-8, 19-28 (chair NT Bible p.91} **Rev. David F. Hurst**

Sermon: "Witness to the Coming"

Rev. David F. Hurst

Ministry of Giving

***Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

*****PARTING HYMN: "" UMH #**

(please be seated at conclusion of hymn)

BENEDICTION in Unison

Beyond the darkness, there is a star.

Beyond the noise, there is angel song.

Beyond the rush, there is a wondrous stillness.

May the God of Advent days,

Touch our lives with hunts of a holy night. [Robert Louis Stevenson]

POSTLUDE

***indicated to stand if you are able*

Rev. David is available for appointments, consultations, & visitations.
Please contact him at 1-413-426-6041 /dfhurst@verizon.net

The flower arrangement for this morning is given by Lois Bailey in honor of Advent.

Bible Study has been postponed until Sunday, January 7, 2018

This Week of December 17th

Today, December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent - REJOICE!

Today, December 17th - Grace church youth. 12:15 - 2:30pm

Monday, December 18th - Cot Shelter

Tuesday, December 19th - Choir Rehearsal???

Wednesday, December 20th- Bridge Club - Noon 5pm (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 20th - Heart of the Valley Rehearsal 6:30-9:30pm

Week of December 24th

Sunday, December 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent - Service 10am

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service - 6:00pm

Monday, December 24th - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Wednesday, December 26th - Bridge Club-Noon-5pm (Fellowship Hall)

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Rev. David F. Hurst (413) 426-6031

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"OPEN HEARTS, "OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Worship Service 9:00am



Rev. David F.Hurst, Pastor
Music Director, Pam Kukucka

"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."