

Order of worship

DECEMBER 23, 2018

10:00 am

(***Indicates to stand if able)

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS and WELCOME

Carolyn Burrows

***CALL TO WORSHIP

Carolyn Burrows

Leader: Love will come to us wrapped as a baby in swaddling clothes.

People: God's greatest gift will lie in a manger surrounded with animals and shepherds.

Leader: Through the wonder of everyday life; love is given to us by God to help us realize our blessings.

People: God's presence draws near to us now! God will be revealed to us in the joy of the birth of His Son Jesus

Leader: So let us rejoice! God's eternal presence is unfolding and changing in a new and glorious way..

People: God's love is here for us to love and adore. God's assurance and strength is with us in this celebration of life.

****OPENING HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory "**

UMH # 220

INVOCATION

Leader: O God during the Christmas season, we have heard the story of Jesus' birth.

People: Renew us, Lord. Give us the ability to see the beauty of birth in simple and profound places. Help us to celebrate the wondrous gifts of eternal love.

Leader : Move us to remain believers in all the coming days. As we wait in anticipation of Christ's birth, keep us from slipping back into the mundane into the ho hum of everyday life.

People: Keep us thinking and believing in the glow of what we have experienced in Christmas past and strengthen us in the years to come. Amen

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Adrienne Cooper and Family

Reader: As we gather around the Advent wreath this morning, we rejoice! Christmas is a time to remember that the love of God dwells within us all. We relight the candles of Hope and Joy to remind us that God gives us days of love and hope if we allow Christ to enter our lives.

[relight two purple candles]

Reader: We now light the third and fourth candles to proclaim the coming of Light into the world. With Christ's coming, the gift of God is fulfilled! Let us rejoice! Let us be fulfilled with profound joy that God is among us in the flesh of Jesus Christ.

[light the pink and a new purple candle]

ALL: O God, your love is made real to us in the gift of Jesus, who comes to earth we can know You fully through our human needs and feelings. Open our hearts that we will receive your gift, so that the joy that you gave us might reflect in the ones we love. Help us to respond to your love with kindness and to reach out to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. David F. Hurst

Leader: O God as the Christmas season unfolds, give us the awareness to celebrate in love and in kindness to others.

People: Forgive us when we envy, or revel in someone else's loss. Forgive us when our priorities are askew and we become part of the problem rather than the solution. Open our hearts to let go of the resentments and fears that seem to surface during the Christmas season. Shape us into being loving people. Give us the willingness to do what is right.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Eduardo and Children

PSALTER READING: Psalm 96 (Red Hymnal pg. 815-816)

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Mary Did You Know"

Sue Routhier & Joe DeGrande

SCRIPTURE READING: First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5

Carolyn Burrows

(Chair Bible OT pg. 865)

*****HYMN OF PREPARATION: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

UMH # 230

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-55

Rev. David F. Hurst

Sermon: "Mary Did You Know?"

Rev. David F. Hurst

MINISTRY OF GIVING: "The Snow Lay On The Ground"

Nancy Harding, Sue Routhier, Joyce Monska, Dot

*****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: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

UMH # 254

(please be seated at conclusion of hymn)

BENEDICTION

Leader: O God, your Light was with us before the world began!

People: Now the Light draws near in Jesus, Let us Rejoice! Let us celebrate! Let us find Joy in our churches, our families and our friends. Let us welcome the stranger and needy into our midst.

POSTLUDE

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

The Poinsettia's this morning are given by members and friends
of Christ United Methodist Church in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Bible Study has been postponed until Sunday, January 6, 2019

This Week of December 23rd

Today, December 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent - "LOVE"

Monday, December 24th - "Christmas Eve Service" - 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 25th - "MERRY CHRISTMAS"

Wednesday, December 26th - Office Hours 9am - 2pm

Week of December 30th

Sunday, December 30th - Morning Worship 10:00am

Wednesday, January 2nd - Office Hours 9am - 2pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*****CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Tuesday, December 24th - 7:00pm**

Come yourself, come with a friend or come with family, join us for a special service of puppets, scripture and song.

*****The Altar Flower Chart for 2019 is on the bulletin board as you enter the library.**

*****Remaining food items, pies and cookies from the fair will be available for sale in the choir room section of the library following this mornings worship service.**

*****A note from Thelma Waterman**

Thank you for the Amaryllis bulb plant and the red bucket of useful items. I have it setting on my windowsill and everyday watch it grow.

It is nice of you all to think of me. Love, Thelma

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