

Order of worship

December 24, 2017

10:00 am

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS

Dot Lambert

***CALL TO WORSHIP

Dot Lambert

Leader: In every heart there lies a Bethlehem.

People: A place where light shines with tender mercies.

Leader: A place where angelic voices enter our souls..

People: A place of wonder and awe, of delight and calm.

Leader: A place where the humility of shepherds and the Wisdom of the Magi embrace..

People: Let us prize our Bethlehem moments and worship with songs of the praise.

**OPENING HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful"

UMH # 234

INVOCATION

Dot Lambert

Leader: O surprising and infinite God, you set our minds to wondering.

People: How life is to be. How things will turn out; throughout our lives.

Leader: Like Mary, we are filled with amazement and joy at the birth of God.

People: Help us to join Mary, who has given birth to hope, to love, to joy and to peace.

Leader: Live in our hearts, Great counselor, enters our lives this Christmas Eve day

People: O Lord we respond to you with love, kindness and generosity. May we always be filled with your peace and dedicated to your service.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - Susan Routhier and Nancy Harding

1st Reader: There is a Light drawing near! This Light will soon enter this world in an unlikely place, by an unlikely mother. This great Light that will open us to God's peace..

People: It is a Light that promises Hope and Love [light 2purple candles]

2nd Reader: It is only a faint glow now, but it cannot be contained. The Light will topple empires, heal the sick and touch the weary heart.

People: It is the Light that brings Joy. [light the pink candle]

3rd Reader: The light is coming! It's radiance is limitless. It can envelop all of us.

People: It is the Light that brings Peace. [Light purple candle]

4th Reader: Today we light the 4th Candle for Peace.

ALL: Gracious God, we give you thanks for the Light that is dawning. Help us to trust, like Mary, that you, O Lord are with us. Breathe upon us so that your love may spark the desire to share our hope and joy with the world. May we find peace in our hearts and in this turbulent world through the shining name of Jesus. Amen.

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 loss. Forgive us when our priorities are askew and we become part of the part of the problem rather than the solution.

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

Bea Phillips and Children

Psalter Reading:

Canticle of Mary (UMH Red Hymnal pg. 199)

Joe DeGrande

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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11 (chair Bible OT pg. 28)

Joe DeGrande

****Hymn of Preparation "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

UMH # 230

Second Lesson: Luke: 1:26-38 (chair Bible NT pg. 57)

Rev. David F. Hurst

Sermon 'The Coming of Christ, the Promise of David' Rev. David F. Hurst

Ministry of Giving "The Snow Lay on the Ground

Church Choir

**Doxology

with Joe DeGrande

"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, who power uplifts; Praise the Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Prayer of Dedication

****PARTING HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH # 238**

BENEDICTION

Leader: O God, you are the Light of the world

People: May your Light shine before all people, so that they might see the glory of God that we celebrate this evening. Let us go now in Peace.

POSTLUDE

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

Poinsettias this morning are given in the Love for Jesus by members of CUMC congregation.

The 2018 Flower Candle is on the Foyer Bulletin Board - sign up for January Sunday morning service altar flowers if you wish.

Announcements

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

Have a very Merry, Merry Christmas from the people in the church office, Rev. David and Pam!

Week of December 24th

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

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with scripture, song and puppets - 6pm

Monday, December 25th - Merry Christmas / Happy Birthday Jesus!

Wednesday, December 26th - Bridge Club Noon - 5pm

Week of December 31st - No meetings scheduled this week

Upcoming in January 2018

Tuesday, January 2nd - Choir Rehearsal - 6pm

Sunday, January 7th - Bible Study - 11:15am Pastor's Office

Monday, January 8th - Church Council - 6:30pm

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Rev. David if needed. (413-426-6031)

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