

Order of Worship
First Sunday after Christmas

**** indicates to stand if able

MORNING MEDITATION

“You don’t know how fast your life goes until you get there!” The Irishman

PRELUDE: 'Christmas Melodies' (arr. Dan Coates) Nadine Shank

WORDS OF WELCOME Joe DeGrande

******CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God has come among us. Let us rejoice and be glad!

People: Praise the Lord, all creation, praise God for he has set us on a path that begins anew. Let us think with faith. Let us listen with faith. Let live in God’s grace,

Leader: God has given us a marvelous gift, let us be grateful and respond with thanksgiving and praise.

People: God's glory is above the heavens and the earth; let us receive the gift of God’s Son and share the good news with others.

OPENING HYMN: "What Child Is This" UMH # 219

INVOCATION Joe DeGrande

Leader: O Lord of the winter sky, place a star on our horizon that will guide us into the new year.

People: Help us to take courage and be willing to take on the tasks and responsibilities of the coming year.

Leader: O Lord raise us up again in wonder; let us marvel at the love that abounds in your worlds.

People: O God of the winter sky, fill us with joy, put a song in our hearts and give us the grace to be well and be filled with God's love.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Joe DeGrande and Rev. Hurst)

1st Reader: On the Sunday after Christmas we relight the Advent Candles to continue the celebration of the birth of Christ throughout the new year. We relight the candles of hope, peace, and joy to pray that we can remember the wonderful gifts of God.

[relight the three purple candles]

2nd Reader: Let us again light the candle of love and the White Christ candle to remind us that our lives are full with the gifts of God and that Christ is with us in the future.

[relight the pink and white candles]

All: O God of heaven and earth, give us the courage to accept you Love in our lives.

Help us follow your path for the good of all peoples. Help us to apply your teachings to our daily lives. May we live in your path without fear and be able to find the Peace of God in our hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. David F. Hurst

Leader: O Creator God, you make all thing new; you offer a new year for us..

People: Help us not to squander our opportunities, let our doubts overwhelm us,

let our sins bind us or let our fears stop us. You offer us new dreams. You offer us hope and love. Help us not to succumb to old weaknesses, but to be resolute about our goals in the new year.

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

Hear these comforting words; anyone in Christ becomes a new person all together. The past is finished; everything becomes fresh and new. Friends, believe in the promises of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **People: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen**

**** **PASSING OF THE PEACE** (pass the peace of Christ with your neighbor)
TIME FOR ALL AGES

PSALTER READING: Psalm 148 Joe DeGrande
(Red Hymnal, Old Testament pgs. 582-583)

JOYS AND CONCERNS Rev. David F. Hurst

Pastoral Prayers

******Response:** “Glory Be to the Father”

SCRIPTURE READING/First Lesson: Isaiah 63: 7-9 Joe DeGrande
(Chair Bible, Old Testament pg 693)

******HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Away in the Manger"** UMH # 217

SCRIPTURE READING/Second Lesson: Matthew 2: 13-23 Rev. David F. Hurst
(Chair Bible, New Testament pg. 2)

SERMON: 'Back To Reality' Rev. David F. Hurst

MINISTRY OF GIVIN: "Ave Maria" (arr. Dan Coates) Nadine Shank

******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: "Jesus the Light of the World"** (Bulletin Insert)

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the joys of the season be colored with heavenly Light.

People: May God's grace be abundant and forgiving.

Leader: May word and silence weave a holy pattern in your life;

People: May the awesome Mystery of God bring new life to all. AMEN

POSTLUDE: 'Joy to the World!' (arr. Don Hustad) Nadine Shank

The Altar flowers this morning are given in Memory of Richard McGuire by his family.

Attendance for Sunday, December 22nd: Adults 43
Attendance for Tuesday, December 24th: Adults 44 Children 3

Church Happenings for week of December 29th

Sunday, December 29th - Morning Worship	10:00am
Monday, December 30th - Office Hours	10am - 1pm
Wednesday, January 1st - Happy 2020	
Thursday, January 2nd - Office Hours	10am - 1pm

Church Happenings for week of January 5th

Sunday, January 5th - Morning Worship / Communion	10:00am
Monday, January 6th - Office Hours	10am - 1pm
Wednesday, January 8th - Office Hours	10am - 1pm
Thursday, January 9th - Local Mission Mtg.	10:00am
Thursday, January 10th - Finance/Trustee Mtg.	6:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor David will be on Vacation December 29th returning to the office on Wednesday, January 15th. If needs arise (emergency) please contact Joe DeGrande at 1-413-237-6823 or the church office (leave message).

ANNUAL GIVING BOXES

If you made an 2020 Annual Giving pledge, please be sure to pick up your box of envelopes this morning. (located on the Table of Opportunity)

UPPER ROOM BOOKLETS for January / February 2020 in front foyer for your convenience. (located on the Table of Opportunity)

2019 ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS will be ready for pick up on Sunday, January 19th.

FLOWER CHART 2020 is on the bulletin board at you enter the library. Please sign up for January.

Christ United Methodist Church, 271 Rocky Hill Rd, Northampton, Ma.
Email: christnorthampton@gmail.com / office phone (413) 584-5935
Web: ChristUMCNorthampton.org / Rev. David F. Hurst (413) 426-6031
Email: dfhurst@verizon.net

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"OPEN HEARTS, "OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM
First Sunday after Christmas**



Rev. David F. Hurst, Pastor
Nadine Shank, Organist

*"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to fulfill
God's will through Spiritual Growth, Education, Worship and Fellowship.
We express Faith through service to others."*

We Welcome you to join us in this our journey.