

Order of worship
December 31, 2017 10:00 am

PRELUDE

MORNING MEDITATION

Sovereign God, as in the beginning, intermingle your spirit in all of the stuff of our lives. Throughout the new year, give us the courage to trust, to celebrate the your blessings and share them with the world around us. James C. Leach

WORDS OF WELCOME

Stewardship Message

Joyce Monska
Roxie Pin

****CALL TO WORSHIP [based on Psalm 62: 1-2]**

Joyce Monska

Leader: Come, let us sing and worship together as we begin the New Year!

People: O Lord, through the baby Jesus, let our souls rest in you! Let the joy of his birth fill us with your love and hopefulness.

Leader: For God alone is our rock and salvation. Open us to believe in this glorious mystery of God being born in a manger.

People: In these changing and challenging times, let the Holy Spirit be our fortress. Let us not be shaken or fall into despair. Help us to find serenity and peace in your loving hands.

Leader: Grant us grace, O Lord. Help us to seek your will and to worship you in all that we do and say.

****Opening Hymn **Good Christian Men Rejoice"**

UMH # 224

INVOCATION

Joyce Monska

Leader: O God, let our hearts be filled with awe and wonder as we live the experience of the birth and the growth of the Son of Man.

People: May we, as the New Year begins be filled with the love and wisdom that God bestows upon us.

Leader: May we be born anew, that our spirits may open and be willing to care and be part of God's commission to his disciples.

People: O God in the new year grant us you peace, Surround our comings and goings with love and understanding.

Advent Candle Lighting - The Bustamante Family

1st Reader: On the Sunday after Christmas we relight the advent candles to continue the celebration of God's love throughout the New Year.

2nd Reader: We relight the candles of Hope, Love, and Peace to pray that we might live free of fear. The Light of the World guides us to find peace and love throughout God's creation. Through God's grace, through faith in the son of God born this Christmas we pray for salvation in the new year. (light the purple candles)

3rd Reader: We relight the Joy and Christ Candles to remind ourselves of what God has done for us and for what our futures hold; living with God's love in our hearts.

(light the pink and white candles)

All: O Lord, you "rule the world with truth and grace." Help us each day to see his wonders performed through our toils, our trials and our triumphs. But above all grant us your wisdom and strength. Give us the ability to discern what is right and actually carry it out.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [in unison]

Rev. David F. Hurst

O God, forgive us our sins. Help us to recognize our defects and poor motives. Help us, to have grateful and humble hearts, so that the precious gifts of God will always be welcome in our midst. As we look to the new year grant us the ability and the integrity to do the right thing. Grant us your peace and love, All Mighty God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Almighty God have mercy upon us: Help us to find our way by the power of the Holy Spirit.. Through your unconditional love we are assured of your forgiveness.

People: Thanks be to God

***** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Eduardo and children

Psalter Reading: Psalm 148 (found in hymn book - page 861)

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 Isaiah 61:vs 10&11 Chapter 62:vs. 1-3 (OT Pg. 692) Nancy Harding

****Hymn of Preparation "Hark the Herald Angels Sing " UMH # 240**

Second Lesson Luke: 2:22-40 (chair Bible NT pg. 59)

Rev. David F. Hurst

Sermon "The Story Begins"

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 gifts; Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

*****PARTING HYMN: "Joy to the World"**

UMH # 246

BENEDICTION

Leader: Now may the awesome God who has come among us as a new born child, wrap you in his love and righteousness.

People: So that we might live life as a new creation, chosen and holy unto Him.

POSTLUDE

*** indicates to stand if able*

Weekly Dates and Announcements:

Week of December 31st:

Tuesday, January 2nd - Choir Rehearsal 6pm

January Meetings/Events

Thursday, January 11th - Card Making with Kathy - 9am

Sunday, January 14th - Birthday Party for Harlee - 11:30am

Monday, January 15th - Cot Shelter Meal

Wednesday, January 17th - Finance/Trustee Mtg. - 6:30pm

Sunday, January 28th - Receiving of new members

Wednesday, January 31st - Church Council Mtg. - 6:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Giving Boxes for 2018 are ready on the Table of Opportunity for your pick-up today. If there is no box for you and you would like to do a financial giving during 2018 (which is tax deductible) - please see Pam.

The Phillips Family is inviting their CUMC family to a 1st Birthday party for Harlee after church on Sunday, January 14th at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. The family has requested no gifts but that a donation be made to a charity of your choice.

Upper Room books for January and February are available on the table of opportunity.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

271 Rocky Hill Road (Rt 66), Florence, MA 01062

P.O.Box 701 Northampton, MA 01061

Office Phone: 413-584-5935

Email: christnorthampton@gmail.com

Web: ChristUMCNorhampton.org

Rev. David is available at all times for your needs and for the needs of others. (413) 426-6031

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"OPEN HEARTS, "OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"

Sunday, December 31, 2017
Worship Service 10:00am



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

***"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to fulfill God's will through spiritual growth, education, worship and fellowship. We express our faith through others."
We welcome all to join us in this journey.***