

# Christ United Methodist Church

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

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**December 20 2015, 9:00 a.m.**



Rev. Catharine A. Cummings, Pastor

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## Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome of our Guests & Members

Pam Kukucka

Dot Lambert

**\*\*Opening Hymn**

**"Lift Up Your Heads"**

**UMH #213**

One: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

**Many: He shall be great to the ends of the earth! Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

One: Not in the mighty places of power but in little Bethlehem in a room out back.

**Many: The Messiah is coming.**

One: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph.

**Many: The Messiah is coming.**

One: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women.

**Many: The Messiah is coming.**

One: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars.

**All: God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Holy is God's name!**

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

"Light the Advent Candle"

Dot Lambert

FWS #2090

Congregational Hymn

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH #206

Prayers of the People

Rev. Catharine A. Cummings

Prayer of Confession & Pardon

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray:

**Together: God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**\*\*Passing the Peace**

*One: "The peace of Christ be with you."*

***Response: "And also with you."***

Prayer of Illumination "Lead Me Lord" UMH #473

*Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makes me dwell in safety.*

Scripture Reading Carolyn Burrows

First Lesson Micah 5:2-5a

Second Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10

Response "Glory Be to the Father" UMH #71

*"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."*

Preparatory Song Christ UMC Choir

Sermon Rev. Catharine A. Cummings

Ministry of Giving

**Response "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #94**

*"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!"*

Announcements Carolyn Burrows

**\*\*Closing Hymn "Come Thou Long, Expected Jesus" UMH #196**

Benediction

Postlude Pam Kukucka

**\*\*Please stand if able**

***Bold print— Congregational participation***

## Announcements

### Interfaith Emergency Homeless Shelter

On **Monday, December 21 at 6:00pm**, we will meet at the Cot Shelter (43 Center St. Northampton, MA) to serve our neighbors. See Sherry Seklecki for more information.

### Christmas Eve Service

Celebrate Christmas Eve at 5:00pm this Thursday, December 24. There will be special music, puppets, people, and God's presence. Light refreshments will follow.

### Pledge Card Reminder

Don't forget to turn in your pledge cards for 2016! Extra cards are on the usher's table. Pledge cards can be turned into the offering plate, office, or the Church's P.O. Box. We appreciate your prayerful consideration of giving this year and look forward to creating a fiscally sound budget.

### Prayers for our Sick and Shut in

Helen Balcanoff	26 Teaberry Lane Easthampton, 01027
Lucille Barbour Linda Manor	349 Haydenville Rd. Leeds, 01053
Wilfred Burrows	346 Chicopee St. Willimansett, MA
Edna Couture	298 Jarvis Ave Holyoke, 01040
Martha Kellett	35 Teaberry Lane Easthampton, 01027
Dorothy Labato	65 Cherry St. Northampton, 01060
Bill & Anna Larson	214 West St. W. Hatfield, 01038
Anita Malachowski	17 Graves Ave. Northampton, 01060
Chet Seklecki	11 Hannum Brook Rd. Easthampton, 01027
Shirley Smith	2 Division St. Easthampton, 01027
Thelma Waterman	27 Paradise Dr. Easthampton, 01027

**Please keep the families of Kathryn "Kay" Mantler, George Scheel, and Ruth Parsons in your prayers during this season of bereavement.**

Pastor: Rev. Catharine A. Cummings  
Organist: Mrs. Pam Kuckuka

**Rev. Cummings is available for Pastoral emergency such as members in crisis, death, and sickness. You may contact her at the church office, (413) 314-3405 voicemail, or email [ccummings5@gmail.com](mailto:ccummings5@gmail.com).**