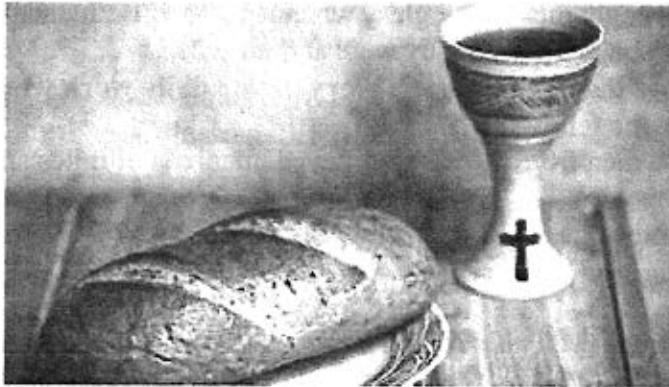


# Christ United Methodist Church

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

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**December 27 2015, 9:00 a.m.**



Rev. Catharine A. Cummings, Pastor

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Prelude  
Welcome of our Guests & Members  
Opening Prayer

Pam Kukucka  
Rev. Catharine Cummings

\*\*Opening Hymn

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

UMH #251

### Call to Worship

Leader: As Christmas comes round year by year, Lord, we're tempted to say, and we've heard all this before. We know the story off by heart.

**People: Forgive us, Lord, and remind us of the difference between knowing it and letting it speak to us again and again.**

Leader: Lord, help us to see ourselves and our own attitudes lived out by people in the Christmas story.

**People: The inn-keeper couldn't find room for you in his inn. Lord, stop us from cluttering up our lives with things that don't really matter, things that crowd you out.**

Leader: Lord, lots of people missed the glory when it came to Bethlehem, but unskilled laborers the shepherds saw it because they were at their jobs.

**People: Lord, we pray that we may get a glory in our daily work when we do it as a service to you and to our fellows.**

Leader: Lord, the wise men from the east journeyed hundreds of miles and went to endless trouble to track you down.

**People: Lord, you taught us that those who really seek will find. In all times of difficulty and doubt, never let us rest content till we have worked our way through to the Christian answer.**

Leader: Lord, they brought you gifts of gold and frankincense.

**All: Lord, keep our eyes fixed on the great goal of life, to bring you the gold of our obedience and the incense of our worship and adoration. Amen.**

Congregational Hymn

“Angels We have Heard on High”

UMH #238

Prayers of the People

Rev. Catharine Cummings

Prayer of Confession & Pardon

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism, we dare to bare our souls before God & reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess:

**Together: God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be**

witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

God saved us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice! In Jesus Christ, We are forgiven. As the Lord has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

**\*\*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

Joyce Monska

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

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

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

UMH #234

Sermon

Rev. Catharine 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

**\*\*Closing Hymn**

"Joy to the World"

UMH #246

Benediction

Postlude

Pam Kukucka

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

**Bold print— Congregational participation**

## **Announcements**

### **Pledge Card Reminder**

Please remember 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

**Keep the families of Ruth Parsons, Bob Mantler, & George Scheel in their time of loss.**

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

**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).**