

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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New Year's Day

January 1, 2017

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during the Worship Service. Thank you.

Preparation Music

(Please be seated and prepare yourself for worship)

The Entrance of the Light

Welcome

Moments of Concerns and Announcements

*Ringing of the Bell

Introit

*Opening Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we are here to worship because Jesus has come to serve as the light and hope of our world. May we have open eyes to see our Lord. May we have open ears to hear his words. May we have open hearts to receive all that he has for us. May we have steady feet to follow him faithfully. May we have ready hands to join in his work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn: "The First Nowell"

Traditional English Carol

THE FIRST NOWELL Irregular with Refrain
Traditional English Melody

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star Three
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far, And to the
 wise men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest, And there it
 rev - erent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered

they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave great light, And so it con -
 king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the
 there, in his pres - ence, Their gold and

REFRAIN

night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and 'night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh and frank - in - cense.

ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: *O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you.*

We confess that we have sinned.

People: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Pastor: *When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,*

People: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Pastor: *When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,*

People: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Pastor: *When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,*

People: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Pastor: *When we sanitize your birth place and erase from memory the poor and displaced,*

People: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Pastor: *When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,*

People: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Pastor: *We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;*

People: **We renounce evil;**

We claim your love;

We choose to be made whole.

(written by Nathan Nettleton)

*A Moment of Silent Reflection

*Kyrie # 750

All: **Lord have mercy upon us.**

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

*Act of Praise..... #760
(Please stand)

All: **Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)**

Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)

Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!

Amen we praise your name, O God!

*The Passing of the Peace

Pastor: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

Please share a greeting of Christian love with those sitting around you.

A Time for Children

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon: "Trust or Fear"

*Hymn: #162 "In a Lowly Manger Born"

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in hope that the Holy Spirit would bring peace to the world. In lighting it we remember all past and present military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer "Pray"

All: **Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our world_____.**

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our souls_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for love and unity_____;

Quiet our busy hearts, Pray___, pray___, pray___ .

Pray___, pray___, pray___.

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer,
 Prayer of Our Savior (sung)
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Our Time of Sharing
 Invitation to the Offering, The Sharing of Gifts

Offering Music
 *Offertory Response “We Are Giving in the Light of God” (526)
All: We are giving in the light of God,
We are giving in the light of God. (Repeat previous 2 lines)
We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,
We are giving in the light of God. (Repeat previous 2 lines)

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn: #154 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

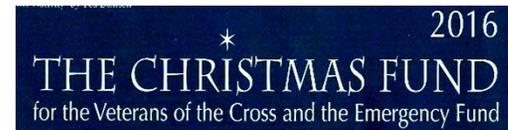
*The Benediction

***Benediction Response #136**
All: Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy meek and mild:
New life, new hope the child will bring.
Listen, to the Angels sing,
“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

*Postlude

We welcome The Rev. Bobbie Hinline as our preacher and worship leader today. Rev. Hinline is filling in for Pastor Meredith in the pulpit. She is a United Church of Christ pastor who currently spends her time gardening, working as a spiritual director and doing fun things like walking her dog and singing. She lives with her husband, Tom in Greensburg. She is also Chaplain of Redstone Highlands Community in Greensburg. Pastor Meredith will return from her vacation tomorrow. Denmark Manor seeks the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we work together through.....

The Congregation.....Disciples of Christ
 Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor
 Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard
 Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant
 Wade Anderson.....Sexton



Did you know that today we are receiving the “Christmas Fund” offering, which is one of our 5 for 5

offerings of Our Church’s Wider Mission that we support through the United Church of Christ?

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the *continued*

caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

This week:

Today-The Rev. Joseph Hedden, Pastor of Hill's Church is covering for pastoral emergencies. His phone numbers are 724-327-3050 (office) and 412-956-5252 (home).

Monday-The office will be open from 9:00AM-3:00PM. Pastor Meredith will return from vacation. Though this is the first Monday of the month, Consistory will not meet until next Monday, January 9.
Thursday-Choir 7:00PM

Next Sunday will be the installation of the new officers for 2017.

We ask that ALL consistory members be present!

Our Newly-elected Officers are Elder Brian Long, Deacons Cathy Herrod and Fred Hayes, and Trustee Allen Mattei (2nd term). Our Consistory Officers who have served in 2016 and will continue through 2017 are Elders Dan Walk and Robin Brautigam, Trustees Mike DiFranco and Barry Kistler and Financial Secretary Joni Mattei. Our sincere thanks to them for their expertise and faithful service in 2016 and to President Don McIlvaine and Deacons Trude Hayes and Maureen Dumbaugh, whose terms have ended.



Also, next Sunday, annual reports are due in the office.

Attendance for Christmas Eve: 115

Offering for Christmas Eve: \$1,720.00, St. Paul's: \$10.00

Attendance for Christmas Day: 28

Offering for Christmas Day: \$951.00

From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ In Common

"O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind..." -
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

On a visit to South India, the Archbishop of Canterbury was asked to bless the Hindu kitchen staff of a big hotel. The occasion was the annual mixing of the batter for their famous Christmas cake. So, as instructed, he poured honey into an enormous trough of fruit, said prayers, shook hands, and walked out into the searing heat, with "Joy to the World" blaring over the loudspeakers.

Christmas, it turns out, is one of the West's greatest exports. The story is known and loved even in places where other faiths predominate: Shanghai, Mumbai, Dar-es-Salaam. And why not? It features a clutching baby, and not many people on earth can resist offering a pinky to the clutch of an infant.

It may be the thing we long for most, the Archbishop noted—to let go of our aggression and fear and whatever else in us keeps us tied to violence, and bend together over a child in shared wonder and gratitude. Perhaps this common longing is what the old carol means by 'the desire of nations.'

You don't have to be a Christian to be profoundly gladdened by a story of open, defenseless love. Even when it comes draped in the gaudy tinsel and bows it's accumulated over the centuries, it touches something basic, something universal. And that should make us think twice about ever giving up on the human heart's capacity for goodness and faith, however deeply buried it may seem.

Prayer . . . "O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind. Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace."



About the Author . . . Mary Luti is a long time seminary educator and pastor, author of Teresa of Avila's Way and numerous articles, and founding member of The Daughters of Abraham, a national network of interfaith women's book groups.