

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

2003 Denmark Manor Road, Export PA 15632

Church Phone: (724) 744-4218

E-mail: denmarkmanorucc@outlook.com



Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays,

9:00AM to 3:00PM

Pastor's Phone: 724-468-0430

E-mail: mercomp@aol.com

Web: denmarkmanorchurch.org



First Sunday after Epiphany

January 7, 2018

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: "Christ is the Light" ✠**

First Time Choir. 2nd Time All Join in

Christ is the light, Christ is the light!

Goodbye to darkness, goodbye to night.

In the eastern sky the star is shining bright,

Oh, glory hallelujah children, Christ is the light.

*Opening Prayer

***Hymn #154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1: 4-11

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation

All: Lord, you have blessed us with life. We praise you for this blessing. What we have done with our lives has both delighted and perplexed you. We are far too often inclined to be stubborn and arrogant, believing that we are all powerful, that we have no need for you. But there is an emptiness in us - a place where we are raw and hurting, bleeding, and bruised. We have tried our own healing methods, and they have not worked. We feel as though we are an oar-less, sail-less boat drifting in water, unable to gain direction, unable to see the shore. We long for home and hope. From across these waters, you have called us. Now let us come to you in contrition, seeking your healing and forgiving love. Amen

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: "Meet Our Leaders"

Installation of Officers

Congregational Affirmation

Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Anthem: "Run Shepherds"

Sermon: "Defining Moments"

***Hymn #351 "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"**

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 (spoken)

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 #347 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"**

*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

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

Don McIlvaine.....Today's Reader

Looking ahead: **On Sunday, January 28, 2018 there will be a worship service of farewell for Pastor Meredith at 3:00PM.**



This will be followed by a potluck supper and a celebration of her 14 years here as pastor and her more than 36 years of ordained ministry as she retires.



Did you know that thanks to your generosity we received \$1,540.00 for the Help Fund, which is the fund that our church uses to help people locally? Many of the gifts were given in memory of Bill Martin and we are thankful that his life inspired such generosity.



If you did not have an opportunity to give to the **Christmas Fund** of the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ (Veterans of the Cross), envelopes are provided in today's bulletin for your convenience. This fund helps clergy when they have an overwhelming financial need and helps those retired ministers and their spouses who live on meager pensions. This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for our clergy.

This week:

Today-**Annual Reports are due in the office today.** Please send them to the church office at denmarkmanorUCC@outlook.com

Monday-Consistory 7:00PM

Thursday-Choir 7:00PM

Saturday-Bible Study at Murrysville Panera 9:00AM



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 11 – all are welcome!

In case of inclement weather, if it is impossible to hold worship,



there will be an announcement on WPXI, Channel 11.

Trude Hayes will also send out an e-mail blast to those on our list and she will post it on Facebook.

Attendance for 4th Sunday of Advent, December 24: 44

Offering for 4th Sunday of Advent, December 24: \$1,285.00

Christmas Fund: \$65.00

Attendance for Christmas Eve, December 24: 95

Offering for Christmas Eve, December 24: \$889.00

Christmas Fund: \$35.00

Attendance for December 31: 39

Offering for December 31: \$2,690.00

Christmas Fund: \$176.00

From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

Signing up for the Loyalty Program

"Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people." - Proverbs 3:3-4

Many of the companies I do business with, such as on-line retailers, airlines, and hotel chains, have "loyalty programs." They offer "rewards" to customers who are loyal to their brand. This is just one example of how our consumer society tends to see all transactions as commodities.

Another area where the idea of loyalty has been corrupted is in politics, where loyalty is viewed as a commodity, not so much to be bought and sold (although sometimes it is), but as the currency for a quid quo pro, which is Latin for mutual backscratching. Some politicians even require complete loyalty while offering none in return.

But true loyalty is interpersonal. It is a relationship. It is not the loyalty to a brand, a political party, or a sports team, but keeping faith and trust with another.

Loyalty is one of the attributes of God. The Hebrew word closest to loyalty is "hesed", often translated into English as "loving-kindness". It describes a faithful unbroken persistent relationship. Often in the Bible the metaphor of a faithful marriage is used to describe the kind of covenant loyalty that God has for Israel.

And God's loyalty is the model for our own keeping faith with those we love. If the worlds of commerce, politics and sports have debased the notion of loyalty, true loyalty remains a beautiful thing, much to be cherished.

Prayer . . . Keep us ever loyal, Eternal One, to each other and to you.

About the Author . . . Richard L. Floyd is Pastor Emeritus of First Church of Christ (UCC) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. A writer and author, his most recent publications are Romans, Parts 1 and 2 (with Michael S. Bennett), new titles in the "Listen Up!" Bible Study Series. He blogs at richardlfloyd.com.

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