

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,

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Pastor's Phone: 724-468-0430

E-mail: mercomp@aol.com

Web: denmarkmanorchurch.org



First Sunday after Epiphany

January 8, 2016

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

*Hymn: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (please see the Insert)

Verses 1, 2, 3 (omit verses 4 and 5)

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer of Confession

All: God of light, we confess that we do not always follow your shining star on the path that reveals your loving presence.

Although you accept us unconditionally, we reject people we find hard to love. Although you cherish all of your children without bias or bigotry, we erect walls of prejudice around people different than us. Although you extend your love to all people, we hold back our gifts and service and goodwill as we choose to. Forgive us, God, and pour your love in us so full that there is no room for intolerance. In the name of Jesus. 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

Pastor: Hear the good news: God forgives, and gives us the strength and courage to forgive others. By God's grace we can find new paths on which to shine God's light so that God's love is revealed to more people. Be thankful, for you are forgiven.

*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: “Shepherds of the Congregation”

The Installation of Officers

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: “Star of Bethlehem”

Sermon: “Another Road”

***Hymn: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (Insert) Verses 4 and 5**

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 #159 “As with Gladness Those of Old”**

*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
Allen Mattei, Joni Mattei, Robin Brautigam
and Doreen Cherep.....Readers
Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor
Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard
Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant
Wade Anderson.....Sexton

Today we are installing the following officers of Consistory:

Elder: Brian Long
Deacons: Cathie Herrod, Fred Hayes
Trustee: Allen Mattei (serving a second term)

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Continuing to serve are:

Elders: Dan Walk (who was appointed to fill a vacated position in November of 2016) and Robin Brautigam

Deacons: Dave Conner and Bonnie Malovitz

Trustees: Mike DiFranco and Barry Kistler

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 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-Annual Reports are Due

Monday-Consistory 7:00PM

Saturday-Bible Study at Murrysville Panera 9:00AM

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be January 29, immediately following the worship service.

Attendance for January 1, 2017: 45

Offering for January 1, 2017: \$2017.75

Christmas Fund: \$96.00

From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

In the Beginning - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." - John 1:1

Christmas day has passed, and now we are left with the wrapping paper, the empty boxes and perhaps a few empty hearts. For some people, yesterday may have been a delightful feast of love and giving. Others may look back on the day we are all supposed to look forward to with a little relief that it's over. Are we allowed to say that? Can we be honest and admit that sometimes the big day is not as joyful in real life as we want it to be?

This first verse from the gospel of John reminds us that our big days and calendars are really of little importance to the God who created us. God existed before time itself. So while we human beings may lift up one day over another, God is consistently present in every day. God was even there before we were here to count our days.

Prayer . . . Dear God, help me to understand that no single day gets to have the last word. At the end of a good day, or at the end of a bad day, you are with me, as you always have been and always will be. Amen.



About the Author . . . Lillian Daniel's new book *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting* is now available for purchase, but you can hear it all for free at 1st Congregational Church of Dubuque, Iowa.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.8.6. with Refrain
John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

In unison

1 We three kings of O-ri-ent are, Bear - ing gifts we trav-erse a - far
2 Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I, In - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume Breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom:
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

Field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship him, God on high.
Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

REFRAIN
O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

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