

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Find us on Facebook



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

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

*Gathering Music

Please join the choir in singing:

All: Here comes the light, here comes the light!

Goodbye to darkness, goodbye to night.

In the eastern sky the stars are shining bright,

Oh, glory hallelujah children, here comes the light! (repeat)

*The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle-“Joy”

Pastor Meredith, Robin Brautigam, Claire Hartung, and Brenna Driscoll

*Hymn: “O Come All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him

Born the King of Angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, (3x)

Christ the Lord.

**2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!**

Glory to God, glory in the highest:

Refrain

**3. Child, for us sinners Poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;**

Who would not love Thee, Loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Reading of Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

Call to Reconciliation

Reconciliation Prayer

All: It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

- **Our senses are consumed by the smell of gingerbread, the sight of bright lights, the touch of velvet bows on top of perfect packages, and the sound of bells being rung in hopes that we will drop a few coins into a Salvation Army bucket.**
- **Christmas is coming. The day on which we celebrate your birth is drawing near. But what we really need is more time with you.**

In this time of worship, Lord Jesus, draw us closer to you.

May we see and sense your presence in a powerful way as we come to worship you. Amen.

Silence

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.

Children’s Time: “Getting Ready for Jesus”

Anthem: “O Come To Us, Emmanuel”

Sermon: “Affirmation”

***Hymn: #117 “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”**

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in honor of all active military personnel who are away from their families on Christmas and as a prayer for their safe return and peace on earth. It is also lit for those first responders who will be actively serving during the holidays and for their safety as well.

Call to Prayer “Pray”

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 #106 “My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise”**

*The Benediction

*Benediction Response

*Postlude

The Kindle Fire Tablets are for the children’s use during worship. Please sign them out and sign them back in at the end of the service

Myrt Driscoll along with the teachers and students of the confirmation class are participating in today’s service along with...

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 we have a special fund that helps people in times of desperate financial need? The Help Fund of Denmark Manor truly does help people within and beyond our congregation. There is a special envelope for your donation to the Help Fund in this week’s bulletin. On Christmas Eve, the names of those who contribute are listed in a special Christmas Card that is inserted in the bulletin as a way to send greetings and good will to all who worship that night. Today is the last day to get your name on the Christmas Card, but you can give to the Help Fund at any time.

This week:

Monday-Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM

Wednesday-Office Hours 9:00AM-3:00PM (Instead of Thursday)

Thursday-Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion 7:30PM

Choir 6:15PM

Looking Ahead:

Memorial Service of Sallie Bradley-January 2 11:00AM

Annual Reports are due in the office on January 7

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is January 31

Installation of New Officers is on January 3 (We will not be celebrating communion this day).

Attendance for December 13: 85

Offering for December 13: \$2,226.00

Please take your 2016 Offering Envelopes from the back of the Sanctuary as soon as possible. The first day to use your new Offering Envelopes is January 3, 2016. Thanks to all our faithful congregation members who have cared for Denmark Manor UCC so generously throughout each year.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Penn West Conference,

This year's Advent devotional is on theme of "Waiting for God." It is written by people in Penn West Conference congregations who are currently waiting and searching for a pastor. If you have ever been through a process like this, you know how hard this kind of waiting can be. But these churches are uniquely gifted to share with the rest of us their experience of waiting, even as we all wait expectantly for Christ's coming among us in this Advent season.

David Ackerman

Penn West Conference Minister

Excerpts from a devotional for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Sam Slicker of The Abbey United Church of Christ in Huntingdon

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Since tradition holds that Jesus was born at night (based in Luke 2:6-

8), Christmas Eve is referred to as Heilige Nacht (Holy Night) in German, Nochebuena (the Good Night) in Spanish and similarly in other expressions of Christmas spirituality, such as the song "Silent Night, Holy Night".

We wait in silent anticipation of what is to come. We anticipate what our gifts will be. Christmas is a time of gift receiving and giving. The wait is over...December 24.

As a wide eyed child, this day was filled with anticipation of what was to come. What would I receive, would I get the gift I most wanted, would my brothers let me play with it...and lastly...would there be snow?

Too often, in our rush to exchange gifts with one another, God's gift is all but forgotten. We need to remember that true giving comes from our hearts. What our Father in heaven gave us is truly the greatest gift of all, his Son. We all must stop to think about that night in Bethlehem and thank our heavenly Father for His loving gift, the Christ child.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, may I...reflect Your nature in all of my dealings. May kindness and consideration be a part of me. I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

