

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

## Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Christmas Eve 7:30PM December 24, 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

### \*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 Christ Candle

Robin Brautigam, Scott, Sharon, Claire and Natalie Hartung  
and Laura, Brian, Bella and Heather Long

### \*Hymn: Carol: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

1. It came upon a midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth  
goodwill to men  
from heav'ns all gracious king,

The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled.  
And still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the bless-ed angels sing.
3. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes 'round the Age of Gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.  
(Please be seated)

*The Promise*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Prayer of Confession

**All: God of angel songs and hidden miracles, wing your way into our world, for we are in need of your presence. We have been caught up in busyness, frantic with lists too long and pocketbooks too empty. We have lost patience and misplaced hope.**

- God of heavenly choruses and humble beginnings, wing your way into our hearts. Let us know a peace that calms unrealistic expectations. Let us be lifted up by angels' songs and see with new perspective what is truly important. Let love grow, for after all the presents are opened, what we need is an overwhelming sense of amazing grace.
- God of angel songs and humble miracles, wing your way into our lives and fill us with joy. In the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

Kyrie: # 750

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

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

*Pastor: God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine!*

*Our Light awaits!*

**All: Hear the exciting news of God's love for us. If we confess our pride and self-centeredness, God has forgiven us. If we want to change, God has a plan for our lives. If we serve God with our whole selves, our names will be written in heaven. Amen.**

Solo.....“Emmanuel” Andrew Hayes, Cello

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering,

Offertory Solo ..... “The Wexford Carol” Irina Thomas, Piano

\*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, marching, we are giving, Oo,**

**We are giving in the light of God** (Repeat previous 2 lines)

The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song

*The Announcement*

Luke 1:26-38

Stephanie Cherep.....Reader

Solo ... “Ave Maria” Dave Conner, Trumpet

*Jesus Is Born*

Luke 2:1-7

Brad Cherep.....Reader

Anthem... “One Small Child”

*The Angels Sing*

Luke 2:8-14

Maureen Dumbaugh.....Reader

**\*Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**1. Angels we have heard on high**

**Sweetly singing o’er the plains,**

**And the mountains in reply**

**Echo back their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?**

**Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**Say what may the tidings be**

**Which inspire your heav’nly song?**

**Refrain**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see**

**Him whose birth the angels sing;**

**Come, adore on bended knee,**

**Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Refrain**

*The Shepherds’ Journey*

Luke 2:15-20

Justin Cherep.....Reader

Anthem.... “Shepherd’s Joy”

*An Important Dream*

Matthew 1:18-25

**Myrt Driscoll.....Reader**

Solo... “In the Bleak Midwinter”.....Fred Hayes, Piano

*The Travels of the Magi*

Matthew 2:1-12

**Don McIlvaine.....Reader**

Anthem..... “Come Into the Stable”

*The Light Shines in the Darkness*

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Pastor Meredith Hutchison .....Reader

**\*Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”** (Please stand)

**1. O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight**

**2. How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (Please be seated)

(Children are welcome to receive Communion at the discretion of their parents. Gluten free wafers are found in the center of the plates of bread.)

Invitation

Pastor: *This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow in Christ’s way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God’s mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God’s new age.*

The Lord’s Prayer (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**

Litany of Remembrance and Consecration

Pastor: *God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the beginning of time.*

All: **They began with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when you brought forth light on the face of the earth.**

Pastor: *They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow,*

All: **And like Sarah and Abraham whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.**

Pastor: *In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.*

All: **At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth, revealing your glory on earth.**

Pastor: *We thank you, O God, that you have sent Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light.*

All: **Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility. As we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to support one another. Be born among us, that we may give Christ’s love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

Solo..... “Christmas Hallelujah” Dan Walk, Bass

*Pastor: The bread, which we break, is the communion of the body of Christ.  
The cup of blessing, which we bless, is the communion of the blood of Christ.  
Come for all things are ready.*

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we have received the gifts of bread and wine. Send us forth to share your love with all of the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Sharing of the Light

(At this time the congregation will please stand light their candles. After all of the candles are lit, we will sing the carol. Battery operated candles are available for the children to use and take home.)

**\*Carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**1. Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven a-far,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**\*Carol: "Joy to the World"** (Remain standing)

Irina Thomas, Organ and Dave Conner, Trumpet

- 1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**
- 2. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response:

"Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child"

\*The Ringing of the Bell

\* Postlude

**The (\*) indicates that those who are able are to stand.**

**Members of the Choir**

**Soprano:**

Robin Brautigam

Trude Hayes

Dorothy Martin

Joni Mattei

Debbi McIlvaine

**Alto:**

Doreen Cherep

**Tenor:**

Steve Cherep

Allen Mattei

Bill Hutchison

**Bass:**

Fred Hayes

Dan Walk

Our Choir is under the Direction of Rick Carson and Joni Mattei with the able assistance of Irina Thomas, our organist and keyboard player.

**If you felt like you were in touch with God tonight, you can experience this every Sunday. Our Sunday worship is at 11:00AM.**

There will not be Sunday School on December 27, but there will be on January 3.

**Thanks to all** who contributed to the Help Fund as well as other ministries during the holidays. See our Congregation's Christmas Greetings in the Christmas Card that is inserted in tonight's bulletin.

**A special thanks** to those who give so generously to our general ministry offering and our offering tonight. We worship here tonight and serve here and in the community throughout the year by your gifts to God, given through the general fund of the church.

**If you haven't picked up your 2016 Offering Envelopes they are in your mail box! Please take them with you 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.

Thanks to all who participated in tonight's service, as well as our administrative staff. We worship by the graces of God working through....

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



**Christmas Blessings**  
2015 from  
**Denmark Manor UCC**

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*The beautiful Poinsettias gracing the Sanctuary  
this Christmas are given by:*

Wade Anderson *in memory of Our Parents  
Clarence and Naomi Anderson, and in  
honor of Our Grandparents.*

Family of Sallie Bradley *in memory of  
Sallie Bradley*

Dave Conner *in memory of Joyce Conner*  
Eleanor Darragh *in memory of Amelia Pevornik*  
John & Myrt Driscoll *in memory of John &  
Mark Driscoll, Varsha Driscoll, Richard &  
Peg, Richard W. & June Martin, and  
Vance Martin*

Gerry Hartung *in memory of Tom Hartung*  
Fred & Trude Hayes *in memory of  
Our Parents*

Meredith and Bill Hutchison *in memory of  
Marion & W. Raymond Hutchison and  
Robert Hutchison*

Vicki King *in memory of Harry O. Darragh*  
Art & Pat Long *in memory of Gerald,  
Hazel and Bob Berlin*

Don & Debi McIlvaine *in memory of  
Our Parents*

William & Dorothy Martin *in memory of  
Loved Ones*

Allen, Joni, Matt & Brandon Mattei  
*in memory of Loved Ones*

Marcia, Logan & Chase Simons *in memory  
of Chuck Simons*

Evelyn Valesky *in memory of John & Dean Valesky*

*Thanks to Elaine DiFranco for organizing  
the Poinsettia Orders and to Wade Anderson  
for helping to arrange them in the Chancel.*

