

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays,

9:00AM to 3:00PM

Pastor's Phone: 724-468-0430

E-mail: mercomp@aol.com

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Christmas Eve 7:30PM December 24, 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

Introit

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Brautigam Family

*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. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondrous love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

3. 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 Promise

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(Please be seated)

The Prayer of Confession

All: We confess that we have arrived at Christmas long before tonight, yet we are grateful to give thanks in this community for the Child called God-with-us. Forgive us our small concerns as well as our petty annoyances and center us on the stable, where quietude and love greet the word. 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.

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Solo 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

Natalie Hartung.....Reader

Solo “Gabrielle’s Oboe”.....Dave Conner, Trumpet

Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

Brad Cherep.....Reader

Anthem..... “Mary Had a Baby Boy”

The Angels Sing

Luke 2:8-14

Maureen Dumbaugh.....Reader

***Carol “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King:

Peace on earth and mercy mild

God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all yet nations rise,

Join the triumph of the skies;

With angelic hosts proclaim,

“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!

Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

Risen with healing in his wings,

Mild he lays his glory by, (continued next page)

Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,

Born to give them second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

The Shepherds’ Journey

Luke 2:15-20

Heather Long.....Reader

Anthem.....“Run Shepherds”

An Important Dream

Matthew 1:18-25

Justin CherepReader

Anthem... “Breath of Heaven”

The Travels of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

Art Long.....Reader

Solo.....”Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming”.....Fred Hayes, Piano

The Light Shines in the Darkness

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Pastor Meredith HutchisonReader

***Carol: “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay,

Remember Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas Day.

To save us all from Satan’s power.

When we were gone astray,

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

O tidings of comfort and joy.

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 this cup, 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

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: #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!

*The Ringing of the Bell

* Postlude

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

Members of the Choir

Soprano:

Robin Brautigam

Trude Hayes

Dorothy Martin

Debbi McIlvaine

Joni Mattei

Alto:

Doreen Cherep

Tenor:

Steve Cherep

Allen Mattei

Bill Hutchison

Bass:

Fred Hayes

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 in touch with God tonight, you can experience this every Sunday when we worship at 11:00AM.



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.

THANKS FOR GIVING

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.

Thanks to Dave Conner and Allen Mattei for setting up our Nativity!
Thanks to our Christmas Elves for their beautiful Yuletide decorations as we celebrate the Birth of Christ.



If you haven't picked up your 2018 Offering Envelopes they are in your mail box. Let the office know if you need envelopes. Also, we now offer on-line giving. Check it out at our website: denmarkmanorchurch.org.

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

- The Congregation.....Disciples of Christ
- Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor
- Rick Carson and Joni Mattei.....Choir Directors
- Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard
- Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant
- Wade Anderson.....Sexton

Attendance for December 17: 52

Offering for December 17: \$2,350.00

This Week: There is no Choir Practice on Thursday, December 28.

There is no Bible Study on December 30.

Annual reports are due on January 7. We would appreciate it if you could send an electronic version to the office at: denmarkmanorucc@outlook.com. We can also scan your hard copy report.

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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

Wade Anderson *in memory of Parents
& Brother*

John & Susanne Bell *in memory of Our Parents,
& Linda Bell*

Steven, Doreen, Brad, Justin & Steph Cherep *in
memory of Pap and in honor of Loved Ones*

Dave Conner *in memory of Joycalyn Conner*

Hazel M. Duffy *in memory of John G. Duffy*

John & Myrt Driscoll *in memory of Rich, Bill,
Vance & Mark*

Paul Gernhardt *in memory of Paul &
Elizabeth Boynton*

Gerry Hartung *in memory of Tom Hartung*

Fred & Trude Hayes *in memory of Our Parents*

Meredith and Bill Hutchison *in memory of
Loved Ones*

Art & Pat Long *in memory of Gerald,
Hazel and Bob Berlin*

Don & Debi McIlvaine *in memory of
All Our Loved Ones*

Dorothy Martin *in memory of Bill Martin*

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

Marcia, Chase & Logan Simons & Kyle Dugan
in memory of Chuck Simons

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



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