

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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

*Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Driscoll Family

*Hymn: #116 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Verses 1, 2, 6, 7
(omit verses 3, 4, 5)

Reading of Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17

Call to Reconciliation

Reconciliation Prayer

All: Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children.

- We muddy the clear waters of baptism by walking over those we claim we love.
- We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust.
- We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your grace and hope.

Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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: Here is the good news:

*Speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair;
sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus;
shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance of grace.*

All: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God's love and laughter. Amen.

*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: "Baptism"

(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery)

Anthem: "Invitation for Advent"

Sermon: "Remember Your Baptism"

***Hymn: #325 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"**

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 (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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (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.)

The Invitation

Pastor: *Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Pastor: *This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.*

The Communion Prayer

Pastor: *May the Advent God give you hope.*

People: **May God grant you peace.**

Pastor: *Let us lift our hearts to God who offers righteousness to all.*

People: **We open our hearts to the One who loves justice.**

Pastor: *Children of God, rejoice in the One who call us to live in harmony with everyone.*

People: **Amen and Amen! We give our thanks to God!**

Pastor: *In those days when chaos reigned,
creation appeared, Coming God,
as you spoke the Word*

which caused snow to cap mountains;

as you breathed the Spirit

which give life to sheep and shepherds;

as your steadfast loved shaped

all that is good and beautiful and good.

*All this was intended for those clothed
in your image of grace and hope,*

*but we insisted on putting on sin's coat,
cinching death's belt around our ways.*

*Through the prophets of every age,
we heard your words of encouragement,*

but chose to keep looking for life

in the seductions offered to us by sin.

*So, in that moment we least expected,
Jesus came, to baptize us with
the Holy Spirit's peace and hope.*

*With those who have trouble playing nice,
with those who seek to bear fruit,
together with one voice, we glorify you:*

People: **Holy, holy, holy are you, God who gives hope to all.
All creation gathers your harvest of peace.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who stands side-by-side
with the most vulnerable.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: *In your holiness, God who approaches,
we find righteousness and justice;
in your Child, Jesus, we discover
our salvation and hope.*

*When the world dumps buckets
of muddy meanness over us,*

he baptizes us in the

Spirit's cleansing waters.

*When those around us throw
stones of bitterness and fear,*

he takes them to build

homes of hope.

*When people would try to divide us,
he builds a park where enemies*

push each other in swings,

and sit side-by-side on the grass

for the Lamb's picnic.

As we inch closer to Bethlehem,

as we wait for the kingdom to draw near,

we sing of that mystery which comes as faith:

People: **This is the One who died, blessing those who feared him;
this is the One who was raised, the Spirit of resurrection resting
on him;
this is the One who will come, to give justice to everyone.**

Pastor: *Now in these days, as we gather around the table gifted with the bread and the cup, may your Spirit of wisdom rest on us, so we may recognize the vulnerable and welcome their gifts in our lives; may your Spirit of might rest upon us, so we may stand up to injustices around us; may your Spirit of unity rest upon us, so we may resist all people, all words, which seek to divide us; may your Spirit of compassion rest upon us, so we may remember, and serve, the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, in this holiest of seasons.*

And when your harvest of peace comes at the end of all time, and we are gathered with our sisters and brothers around your feast, we will sing and glorify you forever, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

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.*

Lamb of God

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

Call to the Supper

Pastor: *The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.*

Sharing the Elements

Pastor: *Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. Amen
Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. Amen*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

***Hymn #110 "Now Bless the God of Israel"**

*The Benediction

*Benediction Response

*Postlude

Rob, Brenna, and Stacie Driscoll are participating in today's worship 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

Today there is a Congregational Meeting immediately following the worship service. We will vote on the 2017 budget and elect officers for 2017. As a commitment of your membership, all members are urged to attend. Guests are welcome.

Did you know that our Women's Fellowship reaches out to our shut-ins during this season, taking the special gifts and offering kind words and a visit? Also, they fund care packages that are sent to our college students during final exams. Thank you for the good work of our women that is largely funded through their fabulous bake sales.

As we prepare of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ we think about how we can make a difference in the lives of others. During this season, we receive an offering for our **Help Fund**, which goes to assist people in our own community. On Christmas Eve, unless you tell us otherwise, we will publish your name in a special Christmas Card that will be inserted in the bulletin that night. This is a way to extend Christmas greetings to all your friends in congregation. Envelopes are here in the bulletin for your convenience.

This week:

Today-Congregational Meeting immediately following worship.

Monday-Consistory 7:00PM in the library. All 2016 and 2017 officers are asked to attend.

Thursday-Choir 7:00PM

Saturday-Bible Study at the Murrysville Panera 9:00AM

Attendance for November 27: 68

Offering for November 27: \$1,855.00

Looking Ahead:

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Our Christmas Eve Service will be Saturday, December 24 at 7:30PM. The next day is Sunday, and there will be a worship service, but it will be held at **10:00AM** rather than 11:00AM. At the Sunday service, you will meet a shepherdess who was there at the manger on that Holy Night.



All the Salvation Army tags for children's Christmas wishes have been spoken for – thanks to everyone who is participating. Don't forget to sign the list on the back table and **return your gifts by December 4** (not Dec. 10 as it says on the tag).

We are going to launch a password protected **On-line Pictorial Directory** for our Church and are collecting data. Eventually we will be taking pictures (they will NOT be professional portraits), but for now, we need the following information:



Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

Preferred e-mail address _____

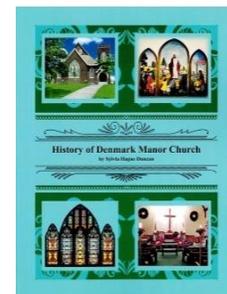
} if you are willing to share this information

I do not wish to be included in the directory but am providing my information for the office use only. _____

please tear off and leave in the office or offering plate



A limited number of the 2nd printing of our **Denmark Manor History Book(s)** are available for Christmas gifting (\$30). If you have purchased a 1st printing book, the 15 revised pages from the 2nd printing are available in color (\$5) or black and white (free). Just call the office, 724-744-4218.



Thanks to Elaine and Mike DiFranco, Dorothy Martin and Allen, Joni and Matt Mattei for their labor of love in bringing us the beautiful Christmas decorations that adorn our Sanctuary!



Thanks so very much to Dave Conner and Allen Mattei for setting up our outdoor Nativity Scene.

From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

Too Soon?

"He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more." - Genesis 8:10-12

Comedy, they say, equals tragedy plus time. The comedian who misjudges those variables may find the crowd turning against her with cries of "too soon!" Noah, I'm sure, couldn't sing "Rise and Shine" for years after the flood. It's no accident that the story of the ark shows up during this season of waiting and hope. What better symbol of the pain of patient expectation than a man cooped up in a floating zoo for forty days? It's a wonder Noah can hold off a week between dove releases.

In our personal tragedies, too, we can be tempted to seek resolution and healing prematurely. It's uncomfortable to be off balance and at sea, to live with a constant reminder of all that we've lost. But if we try to exit the ark too soon, to get on with our lives like normal, we soon find ourselves drowning.

Like the world that waits in Advent for redemption, in the darkness of the ark, God is working. In our seasons of tragic waiting, in ways we may not immediately recognize, we are being healed and brought back to solid ground. Until then, we just have to hunker down in the ark and think, "Someday I will laugh at this."

Prayer . . . Great Transformer, may these tears of grief become tears of joy in your time.

About the Author . . . Vince Amlin is co-pastor of Bethany UCC, Chicago, and co-planter of Gilead Church Chicago, forming now.



 **Thanks to Pastor Meredith and all my Church Family for your calls, visits, cards and prayers during my recovery. They were very much needed and appreciated. I still have a ways to go but you have kept me determined to get there. My love to all of you, Sylvia Duncan**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please fill-in and give to Elaine DiFranco or the Office by Sunday, December 4th - thank you!! (Orders after December 4th are \$10.00)

EACH PLANT is \$8.00, with 6 ½" pot wrapped in gold foil
_____ RED _____ PINK _____ WHITE

_____ TOTAL NUMBER

_____ TOTAL COST - please pay with order.

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____