

# Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve Service 12/24/2024

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

**DARKNESS TO LIGHT:** John 1:1-9 Pastor Don

**Advent Candle Celebration:** Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Worship Family Members:**

Renee Hartung, Trude Hayes

\*Ringing of the Bell

\*Choir: *“Advent Song”* (Congregation sings refrain)

**\*GATHERING WORDS:** Pastor Don

L: Welcome to this most magical night when angels and shepherds mingle, and the birth of a baby changes the world.

**P: We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.**

L: Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

**P: We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.**

L: Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God’s promises come true.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: (Unison)

**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.**

**Special Christmas Music:** *A Hallelujah Christmas*  
Soloist: Cathy Higgins

## \*THE SHARING OF THE LIGHT:

(At this time the congregation will please make a circle around the pews and light your candle from the person before you, using caution. Upon the completion of the hymn Silent Night, please extinguish your candle. Please place the candles in the basket in the rear of the church at the conclusion of our service. Thank you.)

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** *“Silent Night”* Insert

**\*BENEDICTION:** Rev. David Ackerman  
Pastor: May the Child born in Bethlehem, who has returned to the heavens from where he came, be your light in the midst of darkness, be your hope in times of despair, be your peace in turbulent times, be your joy in all of life, and bring you love in all of your days! And all of God’s children join and say, Amen.

**\*COMMUNITY BLESSING:** *“Joy to The World”* Insert

A special note of thanks to our vocalists & musicians this evening.  
Stephanie Voytek-soloist Cathy Higgins-soloist  
Dave Conner-Trumpet Dan Bozym – Organ

And of course, thanks also, to our Christmas Eve Worship & Communion Teams!

Doreen Cherep Steve Cherep  
Robin Brautigam Joni Mattei

**RECOGNITION OF OUR TIME OF SHARING:**

**Invitation to the Offering:** Doreen Cherep

Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you have. Offer your gifts in wonder and surprise and awe. Offer your gifts in joy and delight.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER: (Unison)** Robin Brautigam

**There are so many things to be thankful for tonight, God. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe magic back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy. Amen.**

**\*ACT OF PRAISE: DOXOLOGY**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above you heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Hebrews 1:1-12  
Robin Brautigam

\*Let us join and sing together  
“O Come All Ye Faithful” vs. 1 & 2 No. 135 NCH

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:** Luke 2:1-20 Pastor Don

\*Let us join and sing together  
“O Come All Ye Faithful” vs. 3 & 4 No. 135 NCH

**CHRISTMAS EVE BLESSING AND PRAYER:** Pastor Don

**THE APOSTLE’S CREED: (Unison)** Pastor Don

(lectern – Doreen Cherep & Robin Brautigam)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI: (Unison)**

**“Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”**

**Special Christmas Music:** “O, Holy Night”  
Soloist Stephanie Voytek

**Invitation to Holy Communion**

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.

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
vs.1 & 2 Green Booklet Page 10

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:**  
(Children are welcome to receive Communion at the discretion of their parents. Gluten free wafers are available if needed.)

## **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. Let us now join and pray together our Lord's Prayer. (as projected)

**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: On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, after giving thanks to you, He took bread, blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, "This is my body which has been broken for you, as often as you eat of it, do so in remembrance of Me." After supper, He took the cup, He blessed it, and gave it to His disciples and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins, as often as you drink of this, do so in remembrance of me." Come for all things have been prepared.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Doreen Cherep

L: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

**P: This is the night of the Holy Birth!**

L: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

**P: Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.**

L: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

**P: Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! Amen.**

## **\*OPENING PRAYER: (Unison)**

Robin Brautigam

**O wondrous God of the stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Prince of Peace," and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with your unconditional love. Touch us—touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

vs. 1,2,4 No. 125 NCH

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Robin Brautigam

God's love knows no bounds. Love comes down at Christmas— a love so deep and so profound that nothing will ever be the same again. Know that this love is come for you— to touch you, to heal you, to forgive you, and to make you whole. Amen.

## **ANTHEM:**

*"Mary Had a Baby"*

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7**

Doreen Cherep

Let us join and sing together,

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1&4*

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