

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pleasant Valley and Camden Avenues
Moorestown, New Jersey

Christmas Eve 2017 **6:00 p.m.** **Family Candle Lighting Service**

Welcome! We are happy that you have come to worship here this Christmas Eve.

*We invite you to open your heart to the message of the birth of Christ,
proclaimed in Word and Music, and to sing with us these songs of joy!*

WELCOME

Karen Murray, Worship Leader

PRELUDE

Overture De Noel (First Noel) arr. By Norm Dorrell
Kings Road Revival, with Bruce Smith, Trombone; Aaron Moseley, Saxophone

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A light shining in the darkness...

People: What could it be?

Leader: The sound of angels' wings...

What could it mean?

A baby born in a stable...

People: Who could it be?

Leader: Come to Bethlehem and see.

MARY'S BOY CHILD *(J. Albert Music)*

Long time ago in Bethlehem so the Holy Bible say

Mary's boy child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day

*Chorus: Hark now hear the angels sing, a new King born today
that folks may live forever more because of Christmas day.*

Now Joseph and his wife Mary went to Bethlehem that night
and found no place to lay their head not a single room was in sight. (chorus)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night they saw a bright new shining star.
And from the East there came three men bearing gifts from afar. (chorus)

EMMANUEL *(by Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash)*

What hope we hold this starlit night: a King is born in Bethlehem.

Our journey long, we seek the light that leads to the hallowed manger ground.

What fear we felt in the silent age, Four hundred years can He be found?

But broken by a baby's cry; rejoice in the hallowed manger ground.

Chorus: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate, here to dwell.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise His name, Emmanuel.

The Son of God, here, born to bleed; a crown of thorns would pierce His brow.

And we beheld this offering, exalted now, the King of kings,
praise God for the hallowed manger ground.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God incarnate, here to dwell. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, praise His name,
Emmanuel. Emmanuel, praise His name, Emmanuel. *(2009 Worshiptogether.com)*

GATHERING PRAYER: Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

SONG HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING *(by Mendelssohn) (Public Domain)*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER CHORUS: HYMN 217 **Away In A Manger** **verse 2** *(William J. Kirkpatrick)*

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Let's Get Ready a Savior's Coming

Bethlehem Lay Sleeping

Shepherd, Shepherd

A Song of Christmas

Primary Choir

Junior & Wesley Choirs

STORY

What God Wants for Christmas

by: Amy L. Bradford

Narrators: Pastor Richard and Joanna Nichols, Beth Warner

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Congregation: We will let the light of Christ shine in us.

CANDLE LIGHTING AND CAROL SINGING (See insert for words)

Battery operated candles are available for small children. Parents, please take responsibility for your children, to preserve their safety and the beauty of our Sanctuary!

CLOSING HYMN 246

Joy to the World (by Isaac Watts)

Verses 1,2,4

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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. *(Public Domain)*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

***The People Stand**

ACOLYTE: Carson Binegar

Have a blessed and Christ-centered Christmas!

Come and worship with us at any of our services
Saturday 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel
Sunday mornings 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00

The Staff of First United Methodist Church

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|---|--|
| Richard Nichols, Senior Pastor | Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant |
| HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor | Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary |
| Donna Banes, Interim Music Team Coordinator | Devika Gill, Pre-School Director |
| Karen Murray, Director of Christian Ed. | Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator |
| Kathy Clawges, Youth Director | |

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