ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 North Fourth Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – DECEMBER 24, 2010 **11:00 PM**

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: *"We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! We shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King."*

-Josiah Gilbert Holland

A Prelude of Christmas Music

…All May Stand…

Processional Hymn: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* #148

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
(Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all Ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest;
(Refrain)

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe,
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
(Refrain)

Refrain
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Welcome
Call to Worship:

Pastor: I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

People: **Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!** *Luke 2:14*

…Please Be Seated…

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Jim and Linda Gardner Family

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2 (The Prophecy)
Bell Choir: *"The Holly and the Ivy"* Dobrinski

Second Lesson St. Luke 1:26-38 (The angel Gabriel visits Mary)

Hymn*: "What Child Is This"* Stanzas 1 & 3 #162

What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
(Refrain)

Refrain
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

Third Lesson: St. Luke 2:1-7 (The birth of Jesus)
Senior Choir Anthem: *"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"* arr. Kern

Fourth Lesson: St. Luke 2:8-20 (The angels song and shepherds response)
Hymn: *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"* Stanzas 1, 2 & 6 #154

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The messenger of God came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," the angel said – for dread had seized their troubled mind,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all of humankind, to all of humankind.

"All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace;
Good-will hence-forth from heaven to earth begin and never cease.
Begin and never cease."

Fifth Lesson (Word Became flesh) John 1:1-5, 9-12

Sermon: **"Birth Starts A Reversal Of Things"** Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger

Presenting Our Gifts To The Christ Child

Invitation:
Offertory: Senior Choir *"He Made a Way in a Manger"* Black/Merkel

…All May Stand…

Offertory Response: *"As with Gladness"* #173

As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,
So may we with Holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

Prayer of Dedication and Commitment

The Christmas Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

…Please Be Seated…

The Service of the Light *(Tilt or tip unlighted candles only.)*
Hymn: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* Stanzas 1 & 3 #155

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heaven and earth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hymn: *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* Stanzas 1 & 4 #153

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time fore-told;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

…All May Stand…

Hymn: *Silent Night, Holy Night"* #145

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
(Congregation will extinguish candles.)

Senior Choir: *"Hallelujah Chorus"* Handel

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
The Kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord,
and of His Christ, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, King of King and Lord of Lords,
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, for ever and ever
And Lord of Lords, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
King of Kings! And Lord of Lords!
King of Kings! And Lord of Lords!
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
King of Kings! And Lord of Lords!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hal - le - lu- jah!

Benediction

Recessional Hymn: *"Joy to the World"* #143

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.

Postlude: *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"* DeCou

Please deposit your plastic candleholder in one of the marked boxes as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you.

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

11:00 PM

Assisting Minister:	Reverend Edgar Roosa
Acolytes:	Joshua Dillman, Emily Hartranft
Greeters:	George Baver, Jennifer Hartranft, Les Schoenberger
Ushers:	Richard Miller, Brian Dillman, Jr., Darren Labenberg, Drew Labenberg, Sarae Quinn, Phil Rhode, Scott Stenroos, John Zayaitz
Sound System:	Don Keck

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger, Senior Pastor
Rev. Curt Sandrock, Assisting Pastor
Patrice DiCarne, Minister of Music
Colleen Bernini, Administrative Secretary
Diane Ritter, Financial Secretary
Pat Dillman, Director of Christian Education
Keith Draves, Youth Group Advisor
Cheryl Clauser, Sexton
Church Office Hours: 8:30 to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3:30
Phone Number: 610.965.9158
Fax Number: 610.967.5380
Email: stjohnsucc@enter.net
Website: www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org

The staff of St. John's United Church of Christ:
Pastor Paul, Pastor Curt, Patrice, Colleen, Pat, Cheryl, and Keith
wish everyone a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year!

Welcome to St. John's United Church of Christ! Welcome to this Christmas Eve service of rejoicing. We are heartened by your presence. May joy fill your heart! May you truly have a holy and happy Christmas!

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Keri Dreas and Family in memory of departed loved ones.

The **Organ Flowers** are sponsored by Diane Yudt in memory of her parents, John and Geraldine Yudt.

The **Chancel Table Flowers** are in memory of Marie M. Moyer by her children.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by the Schappell, Schaffer and DeFrain Families in memory of Polly and Art Prechtel by their children.

Special thanks to Patrice DiCarne, St. John's Minister of Music, and to the musical participants in this evening's service – Balcony Brass Ensemble, Bell Choir, Senior Choir, Danielle DiCarne, Erin Donahue, Bonnie Keck, and Victoria Gardner.

Baby gifts for Jesus may be presented at the altar during the playing of *Away in a Manger* (6:30) or before or after the 11:00 service. These gifts will be donated to the Sixth Street Shelter.

You may pick up your **poinsettia plant** after the 11:00 PM service this evening or during the week between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM. The church will be closed Monday, December 27th.

Nursery is located across the hall from the Family Room at the rear of the Sanctuary. It is not staffed tonight, but the room is open and available for parents supervising their own children.

The **Sacrament of Holy Communion** will be celebrated on Sunday, January 2, 2011 at the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services.