

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 North Fourth Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

*Merry
Christmas*



FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – DECEMBER 24, 2010

6:30 PM

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: *“It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.”*

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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)**

Refrain

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

**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)**

Welcome

Greeting:

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
People: On those living in the shadows of death a light has dawned.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is our Life and Light.
In Christ's name, welcome!
In Christ's grace, let us worship God!

Call To Worship:

Pastor: Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened;
Let us go with the shepherds.

People: Let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.

Pastor: Let us go with those who are wise;

People: Let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.

Pastor: Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;
Let us go with those who are humbled by life.

People: Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.

Pastor: Let us go with our friends and family,
Let us go with our neighbors and with strangers,
Let us go with all the children of God;

People: Let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.

Pastor: O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem; O come, let us adore him!

All: Christ our Lord!

...Please Be Seated...

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Bill and Jackie Knappenberger, Rachel Knappenberger

We Hear God's Word

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

Children's Choirs: *“Glory To God in the Highest”*

arr. Kee

A Time To Pass Our Faith Onto Our Children

Second Lesson: St. Luke 2:1-7 (The Birth of Jesus)

Solo: Troy Heck *“Silent Night”*

Third Lesson St. Luke 2:8-20 (The angels song and the shepherds response)

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" #147 (People with gifts for the Sixth Street Shelter in Allentown, will now come to the front of the Sanctuary).

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**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 cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Fourth Lesson: St. Matthew 2:1-8 (The quest of the wise men)
Trio Selection

Fifth Lesson: St. Matthew 2:9-12 (The star leads to Bethlehem)

Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Stanza 1 #167

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ in born.
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy night.**

Homily: "Sings From The Stars"

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger

Litany for Christmas:

Pastor: The Word was made flesh,

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Pastor: And dwelt among us,

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Pastor: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, King of glory, Son of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all saints:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Pastor: Christ is born! Give him glory!

People: Amen.

A Time to Give our Gifts to the Christ Child

Invitation

Offertory: Trio Selection: Erin Donohue, Danielle DiCarne, Jana Houser
...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

...Please Be Seated...

Sixth Lesson: St. John 1:1-5, 9-12 (The Word became flesh)

The Service of Light (*Tilt or tip unlighted candles only.*)

(Congregational Carols)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Stanzas 1 & 3

#144

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less 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.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" Stanzas 1 & 4
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...

"Silent Night, Holy Night"
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!

The Christmas Prayer

#153 The Lord's Prayer (Extinguish candles following 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.

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"* arr. DeCou

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

*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 – Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Bell Choir, Erin Donohue, Jana Houser, and Troy Heck

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.

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Worship Participants

6:30 PM

Assisting Minister: Reverend Edgar Roosa
Acolytes: Amber Koehler, Shania Koehler
Greeters: Bill and Jackie Knappenberger, Bonnie Walsh
Ushers: Jim Beers, Matthew Beck, Adam Beers, Marty Beers, Dolores Fioriglio, Stephen Graeffe, Kyle Heck, John Hill
Sound System: Russell Drabick



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: office@stjohnsuccemmaus.org
Website: www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org