

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 N. 4th Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

January 1, 2012

First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 AM

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: *“Many people look forward to the new year for a new start of old habits.”*

Prelude

...All May Stand...

Processional Hymn: *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

...Please Be Seated...

#149

Welcome and Announcements

...All May Stand...

Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship:

Pastor: Welcome this new year as the time of God’s presence.
Our Creator offers us a new heaven and a new earth.

People: **This is the season for rebirth of our best.
God has gifted us with new opportunities.**

Pastor: God is making all things new.
Mourning, crying, and pain cannot prevail.

People: **We are invited to find enjoyment in living.
We are meant to discover pleasure in our toil.**

Pastor: God is mindful of our needs and our strengths.
We receive resources for the tasks God gives us.

People: **We have come to thank and praise God.
How majestic is God’s name in all the earth!**

Unison Prayer:

In-dwelling God, we greet you in this new year. As centuries come and go, your presence is ever new when we open our senses to receive you. We ask now that you sharpen our awareness of your creative energy at work within and around us. Let us welcome you - in the stranger who is not yet a friend, in the hungry who need the food and care we might provide, in the nurse who fulfills our thirst for water and kindness. Show us your expectations for us in this season. Amen.

Act of Confession:

Pastor: In awe before God’s creation – a sky full of distant suns, and a tiny planet nurtured by one small star among them – we see our own relative insignificance. Yet God tells us that each one of us is known and valued. Before such a God, we bow in humble repentance.

All:

God of all creation, how can you accept our empty praying? The world of our prayers is so small, and the needs of your people are so great. Yet, we must be personal in our confession, for we are a people of misplaced values, and our wrongful priorities have brought us much distress. We have missed your realm among us when we ignored those around us who were thirsty and hungry, when we turned away from prisoners and people suffering from AIDS. Restore us to membership in your family. We want to be forgiven, we want to change. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Pastor: The promise of eternal life is meant for each one of us, and all of us together. Our lives begin to experience eternity when they focus beyond ourselves. Experience anew the wonders of God’s creation. Take time to discover God’s presence in another human being today. The new heaven and earth will be yours.

Sung Response: “Gloria Patri”

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. Amen.

...Please Be Seated...

The People of God Share the Word of God

A Time to Pass Our Faith Onto Our Children

The Holy Scripture:

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 148 Page 508

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 Page 947

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-40 Page 833

If you would like to follow the readings, the Bibles are under the hymnal rack.

Sermon: “Up For Adoption”

Rev. Curt Sandrock

...All May Stand...

Hymn: “*The Lord Is Born*”

(tune to “*Jesus Shall Reign*”)

A brilliant light o’er Judah’s hills, a host of Angels in the sky,
a shout for joy, “The Lord is born,” then, “Glory be to God on high!

The startled Shepherds roused from rest, are told to find the
Newborn King:

An infant sleeping in the straw, as Light beams down and angels
sing!

The Baby’s wrapped in swaddling clothes, He breathes a soft
contented sigh,
as Joseph keeps his watch of Love, Mary hums a lullaby.

The eager Shepherds quickly find, the Holy Family in the stall,
fall on their knees and worship there: The Newborn King, The
Lord of All.

In distant lands three Wise Men meet, and ride their camels
through the night,

led by a gleaming, guiding star, which beckons with a Heavenly
Light.

They stop in old Jerusalem, then to David’s City Fair.
They find the Christ, they worship Him, and give Him gifts and
treasures rare.

We come again to Christmas Tide and celebrate the Holy Birth.
Our days are filled with praise and joy and fervent prayers for
Peace on Earth.

Come, give your heart and soul to Christ, and listen to the
Angels’ song.

May Christmas Joy and Peace and Love, be with you all this
New Year long.

...Please Be Seated...

The People of God Pray

Celebrations of Joy and Moments of Concern

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

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, for ever.

Amen.

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Invitation:

Pastor: For everything there is a season. Always there is occasion for gratitude. One expression of our thanks to God is this time of tangible sharing. We give that God's will may be more fully realized as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward meeting others in their time of need.

The Offering
The Offertory

...All May Stand...

The Offertory Response: "*Doxology*" #46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer:

Pastor: May our hands extend a blessing to friends and strangers who hunger, or thirst, or shiver in the cold. May our presence comfort and inspire persons who are sick or in prison. May our witness to your gift of newness help to make it real to those who can only look backward. Help us all to face the future, trusting you, as we join you in wiping away tears and caring for the least and the lost. Amen.

The People of God Go Forth In Mission

Commission and Blessing:

Pastor: Go from this time of seeking to seasons of sharing. God gives us many opportunities to love and to care.

**People: We know lonely ones whom we can visit.
There are hungry people we can help to feed.**

Pastor: God sets before us a new heaven and a new earth. God makes all things new – even us.

**People: We have been made a little lower than God.
We are crowned with glory and honor.**

Pastor: God gives us dominion and stewardship. We have awesome responsibility over God's creation.

**People: God gives us tasks to be busy with.
We want to do what God intends in this new year.
Amen. Amen.**

Threefold Amen

Recessional Hymn: "*God of Our Life*" #713

Silent Moment

Postlude

Welcome

Happy New Year! The best way to enter into the gift of a new year is to gather to worship the Author of time and eternity.

Preparation for Worship

As Joseph and Mary presented the newborn Jesus in the temple, we present ourselves to you, O God.

The Altar Flowers are sponsored by Ron and Carol Mutchler in memory of departed loved ones.

The Organ Flowers are sponsored by Jim and Linda Christman in memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Nonnemacher and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Christman.



TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Molly Held, Brian Lance
Greeters: Anna Jane Kelley, Bill and Jackie Knappenberger
Lay Reader: Greg Herbine
Ushers: Tom Capehart, Amber Koehler, Shania Koehler,
Sarae Quinn
Sound System: Drew Labenberg
Nursery: Alex Racines, Sarah Demmy
Tape Ministry: Nancy Wieder
Flower Delivery: Marty Beers

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger, Senior Pastor,
pstpaul@stjohnsuccemmaus.org
Rev. Curt Sandrock, Assisting Pastor
Patrice DiCarne, Minister of Music
Colleen Bernini, Administrative Secretary
Diane Ritter, Financial Secretary, dedemarit@juno.com
Pat Dillman, Director of Christian Education
Kayli Freeman, Seminarian
Cheryl Clauser, Sexton
Church Office Hours: 8:30 to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3:30
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Website: www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1

Happy New Year!

10:30 am Worship

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

9:00 am Quilts for Kids

6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #6640

Wednesday, January 4

6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #25

6:30 pm Bell Choir

7:45 pm Senior Choir

Thursday, January 5

10:15 am Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #6123

6:30 pm Cadettes

6:30 pm All Dens

Saturday, January 7

8:30 am AA

8:30 am Al Anon

Sunday, January 8

8:00 am Worship/Holy Communion

8:50 am Children's Choir

9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am Worship/Holy Communion