



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 17, 2023 | 10:00 AM | 3rd Sunday of Advent

Theme: The Gift of the Nutcracker

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! Listen for a messenger from God. The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

We are here to listen for a word from God. We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.

Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears. We are partners in the gospel of Christ.

We thank God for our acceptance in the church. We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.

* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN **BOLD Italic**

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

Creator of all worlds, we lift up our souls to you. All the earth is yours, and all who dwell here are your children. We seek once more to experience your truth and to receive your blessing. You are strong and mighty beyond our imagining. We aspire to become more than we have believed ourselves to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Dani and Jackie Pentecharsky

*OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 3 & 4) UMH 211++

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

NT p. 60

SERMON

"The Hard Part of the Story"

ANTHEM

"People, Look East"

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

*PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94++

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, reveal yourself to many through these offerings. May our gifts proclaim the gospel of good news and strengthen your faithful followers. Grant that we will all know Emmanuel, God with us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Star Child"

TFWS 2095++

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS: The Faith We Sing ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

GREETER| Jane Frey **LITURGIST**| Jan Lucciola

FLOWERS| **FELLOWSHIP**| *Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for Flowers and Fellowship.

On Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2024, you are invited to celebrate a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph during the regular 10 a.m. service. We will remember the Magi as we bring our gifts to the altar. DIAPERS SIZE 4 AND UP are especially needed as well as wipes, diaper rash cream, gas drops, sleepers, nail clippers and socks. All donations will be delivered to Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!

PRAYER LIST: Family of Dale Chanson, Renee Dellarocca, David Heim, Pam Houskeeper, Doug Houskeeper, Marie Fornoff, Agnes Halsey, Martha Peldunas, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Ali Fitzgerald, Roger Fitzgerald, Jodi Hancock, Gloria Schneider, Karen Boehning, Arlene & Emil Moglia, Ernie Balch, Michael Gilmore, Debbie Conklin, Carl Hendrick, Lori Sheppard, Richard Holt, Gretel Metzger, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Raymond Vetter, Brian Sheppard, Rose Belcastro, Jeanette Hendrick, Patrick Hall, Barbara Urban, Alan & Karen Zuis, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Joan Wortman, Robert Keuhne Sr., Henry Salidino, Bill Davis, Jim Lordi, Christine Pasquarosa, Patty Reynolds, Casey Peguero, Linda Klee, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Diane Siconolfi

WE WELCOME ALL!

Visiting with us today? Please fill out a Visitor Card found in our pews, thank you!

Our live church worship services are made available to persons viewing through the link: www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC.

The weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter can be viewed through our website: www.milfordmethodists.org. It is located under the Worship Heading on the site.

If you would like to be on our email list, please contact the office at www.milfordmethodists@gmail.com or (570) 296-6124.

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE (NURSERY LOCATED AT END OF HALL IN EDUCATION WING)

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 10:15 IN EDUCATION WING

(CHILDREN WILL BE ESCORTED TO CLASS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

- **CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary
- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Sunday at 11:30 AM in Sanctuary
- **CRAFTY LADIES:** No Meetings Until Further Notice—Winter Break

MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

- **TODAY 4:00PM—Blue Christmas Service**
- **Tuesday, December 19, 6:00PM—Finance Committee Meeting (Online)**
- **Friday, December 29, 6:15PM—Ecumenical Food Pantry**
- **Friday, January 5, 6:00-8:00PM Family Game Night (RSVP for Pizza)**
- **Wednesday, January 10, 6:00PM—Trustees Meeting (In-Person)**



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