



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 31, 2023 | 1st Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God, who has done marvelous things.

God has spoken to us through a Child. Let us all worship at the manger.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

God has given us a song to sing. Let our voices soar with good tidings.

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

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS: The Faith We Sing ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

Amazing God, once more you have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines to penetrate our dreariness with your good news. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of people to become a transforming community of faith, a holy people. Set your vision before us now and awaken our feet to follow your path to unlikely places where saving grace is revealed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH 220

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

BLESSING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE and NOISY OFFERING

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 OT p. 3

God announces in the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18 OT p. 18

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-2) UMH 211++

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 OT p. 638

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness

CAROL "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (verses 1-2) UMH 216++

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-5a OT p.865

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor, and peace for all of God's creation

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verses 1 &3) UMH 230

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 NT p.56-57

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom shall never end.

CAROL Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240++

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 NT p. 58

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

CAROL "The First Noel" (verse 1) UMH 245

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 NT p. 58

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

CAROL "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (verses 1-2) UMH 251++

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 NT p. 2

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

CAROL "We Three Kings" (verses 1, 4) UMH 254

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14 NT p. 91-92

*CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH 234++

PASTORAL PRAYER

*PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty and everlasting God, thank you for all we have and for all we are.

Thank you for the faithfulness of your love revealed to us through Jesus Christ. We thank you for the privilege of responding to your generosity with these gifts and with our lives, as we dedicate them to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

GREETERS | Dori Stewart **LITURGIST** | Interested? Sign up with office
FLOWERS | Sign up with office **FELLOWSHIP** | Sign up with office

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

- **Friday, January 5, 6:00-8:00PM Family Game Night (RSVP for Pizza)**
- **Wednesday, January 10, 6:00PM—Trustees Meeting (In-Person)**
- **Tuesday, January 30, 6:30PM—Church Council Meeting (Hybrid)**

PRAYER LIST: Betty Kenyon, Family of Robert Keuhne, Sr., Fred Meyers, Renee Dellarocca, David Heim, Nancy Heim, Doug Houskeeper, Pam Houskeeper, Marie Fornoff, Agnes Halsey, Martha Peldunas, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Ali Fitzgerald, Roger Fitzgerald, Gloria Schneider, Marge Carofano, 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, Henry Salidino, Bill Davis, Jim Lordi, Christine Pasquarosa, Patty Reynolds, Casey Peguero, Linda Klee, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Diane Siconolfi

Next Sunday, 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!



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Follow us on Instagram: @milfordmethodists