



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2023 | 10:00 AM | 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Arr. Lynn Arthur Koch

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM "Silent Night, Holy Night" Arr. by Jeffrey Fornoff

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare to greet the child of Mary, the one called Emmanuel, God with us.

We remember the story of God's greatest gift. We lift up our heads to share the good news.

Be still, that the Holy Spirit may be known to us. Be open to the grace and peace of salvation.

We affirm that God loves us and all people. We seek to live that love among all we meet.

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

*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 folk to become a transforming community of faith: a holy people. We want to respond. Show us how, and equip us with renewed purpose and energy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Rebecca Masters and Lorna Cuevas

*OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 5, 6 & 7) UMH 211++

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "Once Upon a Manger: A Paper Bag Pageant" by Tracy Wells

ANTHEM

"Prayer to Emmanuel"

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

*PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

Gustav Holst

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, we lift up our gifts so that people who are bowed down by life's burdens may be lifted up to new hope. May there be justice for the oppressed and food for the hungry; freedom for the enslaved and wholeness for the broken, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

UMH 213

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S. Bach

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| Gail Darcy **LITURGIST**| Liz Steen
FLOWERS| * see insert **FELLOWSHIP**| Robert Bloomer

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

- **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)**



Thank you everyone who supported our (TEEN) ANGEL TREE to help make Christmas just a bit more joyful for youngsters in foster care. Thanks for your generosity!



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