



DECEMBER 25, 2022

Mifflin Avenue & South Avenue United Methodist Churches

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. Large Print Bulletins: We have bulletins in LARGE print available. Please ask an usher for one. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

No. 220

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Wonder of wonders, God has come to us!

People: Not as a judge, but as a Savior; not in power, but as a servant.

Pastor: Wonder of wonders, God comes to us!

People: Not in silence, but in the Word made flesh; not in the shadows, but bringing light.

Pastor: Wonder of wonders,

All: God is with us!

OPENING PRAYER

Angels sang their anthems at the midnight hour to awaken a sleeping creation; shepherds came to worship you, and went away rejoicing; wise ones gave their hearts to you, so they could dwell in yours. O Immanuel, we adore you!

HYMN

‘Sing, We Now of Christmas’

No. 237 (Refrain)

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

You came to us as a baby to hold us in your grace; you came to us in a stable, so we would have no trouble finding you; you came to us in poverty, to enrich our lives.

HYMN

‘Sing, We Now of Christmas’

No. 237 (Refrain)

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

O Beautiful Messenger of Peace, we adore you! You play hopscotch with us in the streets of the kingdom; you build your home deep within our souls; you walk with us in the winter of life. O wisdom from on high, we adore you!

HYMN

‘Sing, We Now of Christmas’

No. 237 (Refrain)

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

God in Community, Holy in One, all the faithful lift their songs of joy to you.

HYMN

‘Sing, We Now of Christmas’

No. 237 (Refrain)

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

ANTHEM

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY (The Christ Candle)

Pastor: Today is the day for which we have been waiting.

People: **We join with Christians this day all over the world to celebrate his coming into the world and his abiding presence in our lives.**

Pastor: Today as we re-light the four candles of Advent, we pause once again to consider the blessings we have anticipate in the past: hope, peace, joy and love.

People: **Today, we lift up the gift of God, which is the reality of those blessings, our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved.

People: **He is the greatest gift. He makes all other blessings possible. I pray, this Christmas Day that Christ may find you in some wonderful way and grant you those blessings you need most.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN

‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

No. 240 vs. 1

Pastor: The Advent Wreath is completed with the Christ Candle in the center. “For unto us a Savior is born and the order of the world shall be upon his shoulders.”

People: **With the birth of the Christ our lives are centered, focused and turned toward God. We light this candle because Christ is the center of our lives.**

HYMN

‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

No. 240 vs. 2

PRAYER

Holy God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this day we celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus. Let the power of the Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with you forever. Amen.

HYMN

‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

No. 240 vs. 3

CELEBRATION THROUGH PRAYER

CANDLELIGHTING FOR THOSE NEAR AND FAR

Christmas remembrances—surely the most precious memories. We all have images to treasure: the smell of a crackling Fire...the warm glow of being with loved ones...the wonder of fresh snow with Christmas lights shining through in a myriad of colors... the smell of turkey roasting and pies baking...and songs- all is the remembrance of one special birthday! Christmas is a celebration for all time, because God loved us enough to send His Son!

You are to come forward to light a candle or candles in memory or in honor of a loved one(s). This loved one may be deceased or just not able to be with you this day, but they are very much in your thoughts and in your heart.

HYMN

‘What Child Is This’

No. 219

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **We listen for the word of God.**

CHORAL RESPONSE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234 (refrain)
*"O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord"*

FIRST LESSON Hebrews 1: 1-4, 5-12
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALTER 'Psalm 98' No. 818-819 (Response # 2)

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 238 (refrain)
"Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"

*GOSPEL LESSON
The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
A reading from the Gospel of St. John.
Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ John 1: 1-14

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE
The Gospel of the living Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON 'No Angels, No Shepherds, No Star' Pastor Russel Shuluga

HYMN 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' No 230 V. 4

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (Sung to the tune of 'It Came upon a Midnight Clear' No. 218

**"Our Christmas offering we present to you, oh newborn one!
Bless it, we pray, and all the love we have for you, God's Son.
Our world is deeply needing gifts that only you can bring.
Help us, your people, heal the world.
That all your praise may sing. Amen."**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for the extravagant gift of your Son, born to us this day. Receive, we pray, these offerings as our grateful response for your love among us which changed and continues to change the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Practice Christmas!

People: We will practice Christmas by inspiring hope.

Pastor: Practice Christmas!

People: We will practice Christmas by working for peace.

Pastor: Practice Christmas!

People: We will practice Christmas by making sounds of joy.

Pastor: Practice Christmas!

People: We will practice Christmas by reaching out with generous love.

Pastor: Practice Christmas!

People: We will practice Christmas by inviting the transformation of our hearts.

Pastor: Practice Christmas!

People: We will practice Christmas by spreading the Good News of Christ.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'The First Noel'

No. 245 (Refrain only)

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Go Tell It on the Mountain'

No. 251

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD