

“Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you.” ~ John Greenleaf Whittier

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. John Lutz, Senior Pastor

Jerry Hill (9:30), Worship Assistant

December 11, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting One Another

(Please sign the attendance pad and pass it down the aisle. Stand and greet the people around you and welcome them into our circle of faith today.)

*Opening Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” 224

Lighting of the Advent Candle Erika Paton & Maralyn Wayles (8:00);
The Smigiel Family (9:30)

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Three candles of Advent are lit; and the people respond...

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

*Gloria Patri “Glory Be To the Father” 70

Life of the Church

✠Prayers of the People ✠The Lord’s Prayer

*Hymn “O Zion, Haste” 573

(Children are dismissed at this time for Sunday School.)

A Christmas Cantata

Presented by The Wesleyan Choir, directed by Aimee O’Neill

“Tapestry of Light” by Joseph M. Martin

Narrator: Andy Rozek

Springing from the rich heritage of “Celtic” Christmas traditions comes this special music overflowing with hope and light. From seasonal songs that lift the spirits to quiet carols of reflection and peace, you will be filled with the music of grace. May the Father of all lights gather us all to His heart and weave us into a wonderful tapestry of light.

Carols of Hope and Light

Longing for the Light

Rachal Evans & Colin O’Neill, Soloists

An Advent Garden

O Wondrous Night

Michael Fario, Soloist

A Celtic Noel

A Celtic Gloria!

Bethlehem Light

Robin Smith, Soloist

Carols of Celebration

Offertory

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings

*Offertory Response “Doxology” 95

*Offertory Prayer [unison]

Gracious God, we offer You thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, this season of Advent. As we prepare for the birth of Your son, we share our tithes and offerings with the joy and excitement that is common as one anticipates the birth of a new child. Bless these gifts in Your Holy Name. Amen.

*Closing Hymn “Joy to the World” 246

*Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles’ Creed” 881

*Benediction

Postlude

**If able, please stand to worship God*

We welcome YOU to our worship service this morning. If you are visiting our church for the first time, we extend you a special greeting. (Please inform us of your complete name and address on the Fellowship Pad or in the Guest Book.) We invite you to enter into our worship wholeheartedly. Sing out! Listen intently to God's Word! Be open to promptings of the Holy Spirit! And after the service, give us a chance to talk with you and invite you back! We look forward to your worshipping with us again.

ABOUT THIS WORSHIP SERVICE ...

Altar Flowers today are Dedicated to the Glory of God In Loving Memory of Melanie Arnone, Loving Sister and Aunt, by John, Vivian & Ashlee Bickley; and also In Memory of Winifred Hewitt MacKay.

Morning Greeters this morning are Lyn & Bill Wallace.

Ushers this morning are The Cookson Family.

Acolyte this morning is Allison Kephart.

Thank you to Tim Eick, Bob Slotterback & Tom Romspert for helping at the 8:00 service.

Prayer Chain No. 2 is in effect this week. Please call Madge Laughlin, 215-357-6573, for prayer requests and praise for answered prayers.

PLEASE NOTE: Until further notice, all worship services will be held in Fellowship Hall due to the roof repair work in the sanctuary.

Traditional worship will have two services, at **8:00 & 9:30** a.m.; Contemporary at **11:00** a.m.

Please enter the building through the front doors when services are in progress.

Thank you for your cooperation.

LANGHORNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*A Fellowship of
Believers Reaching Out
That All Might Know
Christ as Lord.*

301 E. Maple Ave.
Langhorne PA 19047
(215) 757-4984
lumc-online.org

Worship Services

Traditional

9:30 a.m.

Contemporary

11:00 a.m.

John Lutz,

Senior Pastor
revjlutz@comcast.net

Bill Bryan,

Minister of
Congregational Care
bbryan104@comcast.net

Jerry Hill,

Lay Leader
hillawn@comcast.net

Aimee O'Neill,

Dir. Of Music Ministries
aimbabe88@comcast.net

Anthony Vigile,

Contemporary Worship
Leader
avigile@comcast.net

Judy Hardie,

Church Secretary
judyhardie@comcast.net