

Langhorne United Methodist Church

301 E. Maple Ave., Langhorne PA 19047 (215) 757-4984

Christmas Eve

A Candlelight and Communion Service

Rev. John Lutz, Pastor

Jerry Hill (9:00) and Tom Romsper (11:00), Worship Assistants

December 24, 2011

9:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Gathering

Prelude (9:00)

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

LUMC Adult Bell Choir

Organ Prelude (11:00)

Welcome and Greetings

*Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jeff Rowlands & Family (9:00);
Bob & Jeannette Hesser (11:00)

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps..

Four candles of Advent plus the Christ candle are lit; and the people respond. . .

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; His voice undimmed by the centuries; His call and His promise as clear to us as it was to His disciples so long ago.

Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of Your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

Special Music (9:00)

“Mary Did You Know?”

LUMC Adult Bell Choir

Special Music (11:00)

“Would I Miss the Miracle?”

The Wesleyan Choir

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 2: 1-10

(page 724 in the pew Bible)

A Christmas Meditation

Pastor Lutz

* Prayer of Confession

Loving and merciful God, as we await the coming of Jesus, we confess that we do so with divided loyalties, scattered attention and idolatrous hearts. We want to welcome a baby but not surrender control of our lives to a Lord who expects our allegiance. We like the idea of having something and someone to believe in but do not want those beliefs to demand a change in our behaviors. We are inspired by brilliant stars, angelic song and the magi's gifts, but are not interested in the risky business of sharing the good news. Our lives are cluttered with parties, packages and pageantry, and in the midst of it all, we have misplaced the truth of the Incarnation--that You have come to be with us, to know us and be known by us, to dwell not just with us but within us, for the sake of all creation and the world. Forgive us, precious Son of God, we pray, and restore to us the joy of being Yours. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Special Music

“O Holy Night”

Adam

Soloists: Danny O'Neill (9:00); Robin Smith (11:00)

Assurance of Pardon (*Pastor*)

How blessed we are to have a High Priest who understands our weakness, hears our prayer and responds with mercy to our sincere confession. Friends, receive the good news that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Amen.

Giving Our Gifts in Adoration of the Christ Child

*Offertory Response

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

A Christmas Prayer

Candlelighting Ceremony

(Remain seated throughout the ceremony. The assistants will bring the light to those at the end of the pews. Always keep your lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle as you pass the light along your row.

After all the candles have been lit and the lights turned down low, the organist will play “Silent Night” (#239) once and then all join to sing. Carefully raise your candle during the 3rd verse as a tribute to God's Wondrous Light, Jesus Christ, who shines in our lives and, through us, to the world.)

*Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World”

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*Benediction of Illumination [all]

Gracious God, as we prepare for the coming of the light of the world, illumine our hearts with the light of Your Spirit to hear and receive Your Word and go to be the Church. Amen

Postlude

**If able, please stand to worship God*

(Please remember to drop off your candle at the rear of the church)

Merry Christmas!

***We joyfully greet** our members and their loved ones and all our visitors on this Christmas Eve! We remember together, with awe and gratitude, how God shone his light into our darkness on that first Christmas. We pray that we may be bearers of His light; may we share with the world the light that shines from the face of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***If you are seeking a church home** at Langhorne United Methodist Church and you are interested in joining our congregation, or would just like to find out more about LUMC, please contact Pastor John Lutz, or the Church Office, at 215-757-4984.*

ABOUT THIS SERVICE...

Altar Flowers today are Dedicated to the Glory of God In Loving Memory of Mother & Father, Edward O. & Violet M. Weisser, Sr., by Barbe & Ed Weisser; and also In Loving Memory of Mother & Father, Sidney C. & Florence E. Banks, by Barbe & Ed Weisser.

Ushers for this evening are Andy & Beth Rozek at 9:00 p.m. and at 11:00 p.m., The Hansen Family.

Thank You to our Communion Helpers:

9:00 p.m. The Lutz Family, Jerry Hill

11:00 p.m Tom Romspert