

*If this is to be a Happy New Year, a year of usefulness, a year in which we shall live to make this earth better, it is because God will direct our pathway. How important then, to feel our dependence upon Him!* — Matthew Simpson

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

#### Covenant Renewal Service

Rev. John Lutz, Senior Pastor

Lyn Wallace/Jerry Hill, Worship Assistants

December 30, 2012

8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Prelude

\*Opening Hymn and Entrance of the Light

“O God Our Help in Ages Past” 117

Welcome & Greeting

*(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.)*

Life of the Church

\*Gloria Patri “Glory Be To the Father” 70

\*The Opening Prayer [unison] (David Tripp, England, 20th Cent.)

***O God, Searcher of all our hearts, You have formed us as a people and claimed us for Your own. As we come to acknowledge Your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with You, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let Your Spirit impress Your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.***

Litany Of Thanksgiving

(People's Response at **R**: “Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.”)

O God, our Covenant Friend, You have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank You for Your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place. We praise Your holy name, O God. You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with Your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers. **R**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after You, and have given us Your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of Your Spirit and the witness of Your Church. **R**

You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors. **R**

You remembered us when we forgot You. You followed us even when we tried to flee from You. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to You. For all Your patience and overflowing grace, **R**

\*Hymn “Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine” 606  
*(Charles Wesley wrote this hymn specifically for this service.)*

Scripture Lessons Jeremiah 31: 31-34; I Peter 1: 13-23

Special Music

Opening Remarks about the Covenant Service

Pastor: From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant and gather at the Lord's table. Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God.

Proclamation [unison]

***As brothers and sisters in Christ, we understand the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God. Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator.***

***He sealed it with His own blood, so that it might last forever. On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfector of our faith. On the other side, we are pledged to no more live for ourselves but only for Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us.***

***Let us make this covenant of God our own...***

**WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE** [Please see insert]

Sharing Our Offerings

Offertory

\*Offertory Response “Doxology” 95

\*Offertory Prayer [unison]

***O God, we are stirred this Christmastime to refocus our attention from the commercialism of Christmas to the miraculous birth of an infant who was born in a manger long ago. You have given us such a precious gift. Thank You, God.***

*We offer You these gifts as our gratitude for all that You give to us. We pray in the name of that miraculous infant, the Baby Jesus. Amen.*

\*Going Forth of the Light into the World and  
Closing Hymn                      “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”                      203

\*Benediction  
Organ Postlude

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*\*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 Husband and Father, Harold Foster, by Bettie Foster and Family; and also In Loving Memory of Barry Arner, Husband and Father, by Karen, Rob & David Arner.

**Sanctuary Flowers** are Dedicated to the Glory of God In Loving Memory of Jake Stockert, by Babs Wiley and Family.

**Morning Greeters** today are, at the 8:00 service, Ken MacAlister; and at the 9:30 service, Stan & Connie Dettman.

**Ushers** today at the 8:00 service are Tim Eick & Tom Romspert; and at the 9:30 service, The Hansen Family.

**Acolyte** is Jillian Rowlands.

**Prayer Chain No. 5 is in effect this week.** Please call George Jenca, 215-757-4094, for prayer requests and praise for answered prayers.

## 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](http://lumc-online.org)

### Worship Services

#### **Traditional**

8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

#### **Contemporary**

11:00 a.m.

### **John Lutz,**

Senior Pastor

[revjlutz@comcast.net](mailto:revjlutz@comcast.net)

### **Bill Bryan,**

Minister of

Congregational Care

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### **Judy Hardie,**

Church Secretary

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