

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*January 3, 2021*

*Second Sunday of Christmas*

*"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) Let us sing with gladness,

**(P) for the love of God has come to dwell on earth.**

(L) Let us shout with joy,

**(P) for the grace of God is at work in our lives.**

(L) Let us praise God, the giver of all blessings,

**(P) for the very heart of God is given to us.**

(L) Let us call out to God,

**(P) for redemption is God's gift to us.**

**\*OPENING SONG**

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

*See the bright and Morning Star, Jesus, the Light of the World!*

*He has risen in our hearts, Jesus, the Light of the World!*

*Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright.*

*Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.*

*He's the lamp that lights our way, Jesus, the Light of the World!*

*Step by step and day by day, Jesus, the Light of the World!*

*Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright.*

*Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.*

*No more darkness, no more night, Jesus, the Light of the World!*

*He will shine forever bright, Jesus, the Light of the World!*

*Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright.*

*Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(L) God of every blessing, we rejoice that you have chosen us from long ago, adopted us as your beloved children and gathered us into your presence. Now make known in our hearts and lives your eternal purpose for heaven and earth so that we may live, this day and always, for the glory of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*ACT OF PRAISE #189**

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;*

*you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**The Old Testament Lesson:** Jeremiah 31: 7-14

**7** For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

**8** See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

**9** With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

**10** Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

**11** For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

**12** They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

**13** Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

**14** I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

**\*The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

**\*The Gospel:** John 1: 1-14

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*\*Laus Tibi: Praise be to thee, O Christ*

**SERMON**                      And the Word Became Flesh                      The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

*\*CAROL                      Behold the Savior*

*Oh, what innocence, sleeping in a manger under dreamless skies.*

*See the newborn King, trading every glory for a silent night.*

*Here is the Promise we have waited for; He will not leave us in the dark.*

*He will bear our weight. He will wear our shame. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior, Jesus Christ, Law of Love and Light. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior.*

*Veiled Deity, praise of every angel, shepherds bowing low.*

*Sweet humility, mercy as a Baby, God in flesh and bone.*

*Here is the Promise we have waited for; He will not leave us in the dark.*

*He will bear our weight. He will wear our shame. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior, Jesus Christ, Law of Love and Light. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior.*

*Behold the Savior, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.*

*Here is the Promise we have waited for; He will not leave us in the dark. He is the Promise we have waited for, The Cry of every searching heart.*

*He will bear our weight. He will wear our shame. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior, Jesus Christ, Law of Love and Light. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior. Come, lift Him high! Behold the Savior.*

#### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

(L) Do you believe in God?

**(P) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**

(L) Do you believe in Jesus the son?

**(P) We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

(L) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**(P) We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.**

#### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

#### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you... **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts...**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God...**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing the glory of your name:

***Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of Saboath  
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the LORD  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.***

...Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

### **\*CLOSING CAROL** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain:

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! (2x)*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when Lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born  
And brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn'!*

*Jesus Christ is born! Jesus Christ is born!*

### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

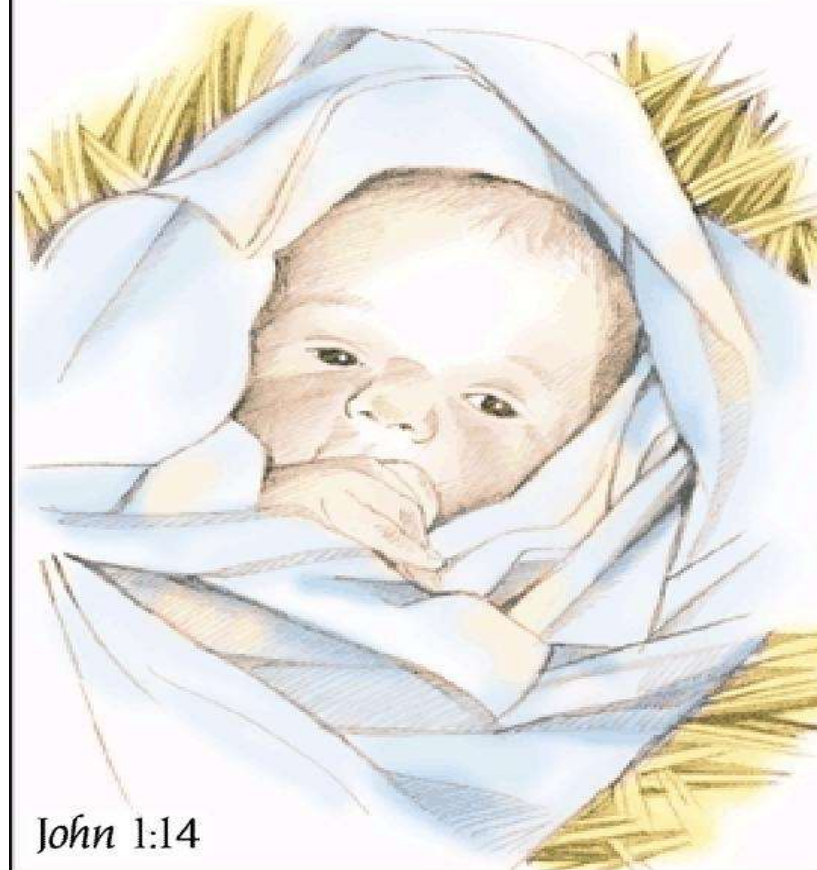
### **\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE#231**

*Arise your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

### **\*POSTLUDE**

*(\*Please stand in body or spirit.)*

*The Word became flesh and  
made his dwelling among us.*



### **St. Matthews United Church of Christ**

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, [stmatts@ptd.net](mailto:stmatts@ptd.net)

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Council President: Mr. George Huber

Sunday Worship, 9 AM, Adult Sunday School 10:30 am

Children's Sunday School is Virtual at

[www.stmattsucckunkletown.com](http://www.stmattsucckunkletown.com)



*God of the Ages, I offer you my heart, anew with this new year. Help me love you and my neighbors all year long, one day at a time.*

**This Week Ahead**

Sunday, January 3, 2021	Worship	-Sanctuary, 9 am
	Second Sunday of Christmas	-CIA Class, Stage 10:30 am
Monday, January 4		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, January 6	The Feast of Epiphany	-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, January 8		- Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, January 10	Worship	-Sanctuary, 9 am
	Baptism of our Lord Sunday	-CIA Class, Stage 10:30 am
	Installation of New Council Members	

**Prayer Concerns**

Shirley Borger, McCoy Rapa, Doug Hawk, Bill Slawter, Eliza Dymond, Janet Gower, Grace Everett, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Bruce Eckhart, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Erica Pozza, Rosemarie Stranahan, Lynda Edwards, Janet Fowler, Shirley Smith, Andrea Holec, Chapman Buskirk, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Kim Cope, Josh and Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, Gladys Meixsell, George Keller, and the Families of Bill Clausen, Scott Madden, Loretta Hawk, Marlene Prutzman, Bobbie Christman, Franklin Smith, Rose Miller and Robert Taschler

**Today's Ushers:**

Henry Krechel, Harry Koehler, Gabrielle Bentley, Starlene Barr, Cheryl Dorshimer

**Next Week's Ushers:**

**This Week's Acolyte:** Ty Borger

**Next Week's Acolyte:** Katie Fritz

**Transmission of COVID19 is on the rise in our area. Don't forget to wear a mask at all times when inside the building and to keep 6 feet away from others not in your household! If you are not feeling well or running a fever, please stay home.**

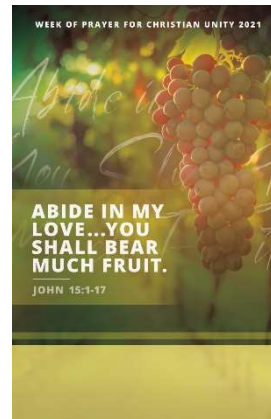
**A huge thank you goes out to all who helped with our Christmas Eve Services.** The council and pastor appreciates the work of our tech crew in our sound room, all the readers and participants in the liturgy, our wonderful vocalists and musicians, the CIA who brought us the 12 days of Christmas, our ushers and all who worked so hard during a difficult year to help lead worship this Advent and Christmas season. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!**

**Offering Envelopes for 2021 are available for pick up in the Gathering Room.**

Because of COVID19, many of our members are not worshipping in person. Please pick up the boxes for your family members and neighbors and drop them off for us. Thank You!

**Our New Council members will be installed on next Sunday, January 10, 2021 as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord.** Please join us as we honor the council members of the class 2020 and welcome and install RJ Cramer, Cheryl Dorshimer, and Jessica Slawter for the class of 2023. We will all have the opportunity to renew our own baptismal promises as we install our new class of council members.

**Thank you to all who donated to help a church member out with car repairs.** We were able to raise more than enough to cover the cost due to a very generous donor. **THANK YOU!!**



**The Week of Christian Unity begins January 18<sup>th</sup>.** The Churches involved with PVEN will be leading a Virtual Prayer Service that year. The theme for the 2021 is "Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit." It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (cf. John 15:1-17). "Jesus gave his life for all out of his love for all," said Fr. James Loughran, SA, Director of Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII). "To abide in his love reminds us that we live in a community celebrating our gift of unity." The service will be videotaped, and a link will be provided in our bulletins at a later date so you can access the worship service on your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

