

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

*December 27, 2020*

*First Sunday of Christmas*

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) Where we are busy—

**(P) Peace.**

(L) Where we are lost—

**(P) Salvation.**

(L) Where we are sad—

**(P) Joy.**

(L) Where we are bitter—

**(P) Love.**

(L) Let this hour be a time to hope for all these things of God. AMEN.

**\*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) Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sang your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for redemption. Let us who seek redemption this day, prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of his salvation, and live according to your word. 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 READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 61:10—62: 3**

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

**\*The Gospel:** Luke 2: 22-40

**22** When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), **24** and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **27** Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, **29** "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; **30** for my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." **33** And the child's father and mother

were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed **35** so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

**36** There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

**37** then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. **39** When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40** The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

## **CHRISTMAS STORY**

*The Littlest Angel*

by Charles Tazewell and illustrated by Paul Micich

## **\*CAROL**

*Were You There on That Christmas Night?*

*Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night,  
When the world was filled with a holy light?  
Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth?*

*Did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King,  
With the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?  
Did you see how they bowed as they praised Him aloud at His birth?*

*Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang, at the glory of the sight?  
Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang, all through the night?*

*Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,  
The salvation of the world begun?  
Did you know it was love, that was sent from above to the earth?  
Did you know it was love, that was sent from above to the earth?*

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Col. 1:15-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.**

**All things have been created through him and for him.**

**He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**He is the head of the body, the church;**

**he is the beginning, the first born of the dead,**

**so that he might come to have first place in everything.**

**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether or earth or in heaven,**

**by making peace through the blood of the cross. AMEN.**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

#### **\*CLOSING CAROL**

*Joy to the World!*

*Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come, the Lord is come!*

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come, the Lord is come!  
Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come, the Lord is come!*

*He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.*

*Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come, the Lord is come!  
Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come, the Lord is come!  
Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! The Lord is come, the Lord is come!  
The Lord is come!*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE#218**

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

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

**\*POSTLUDE**

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

**St. Matthews United Church of Christ**

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

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

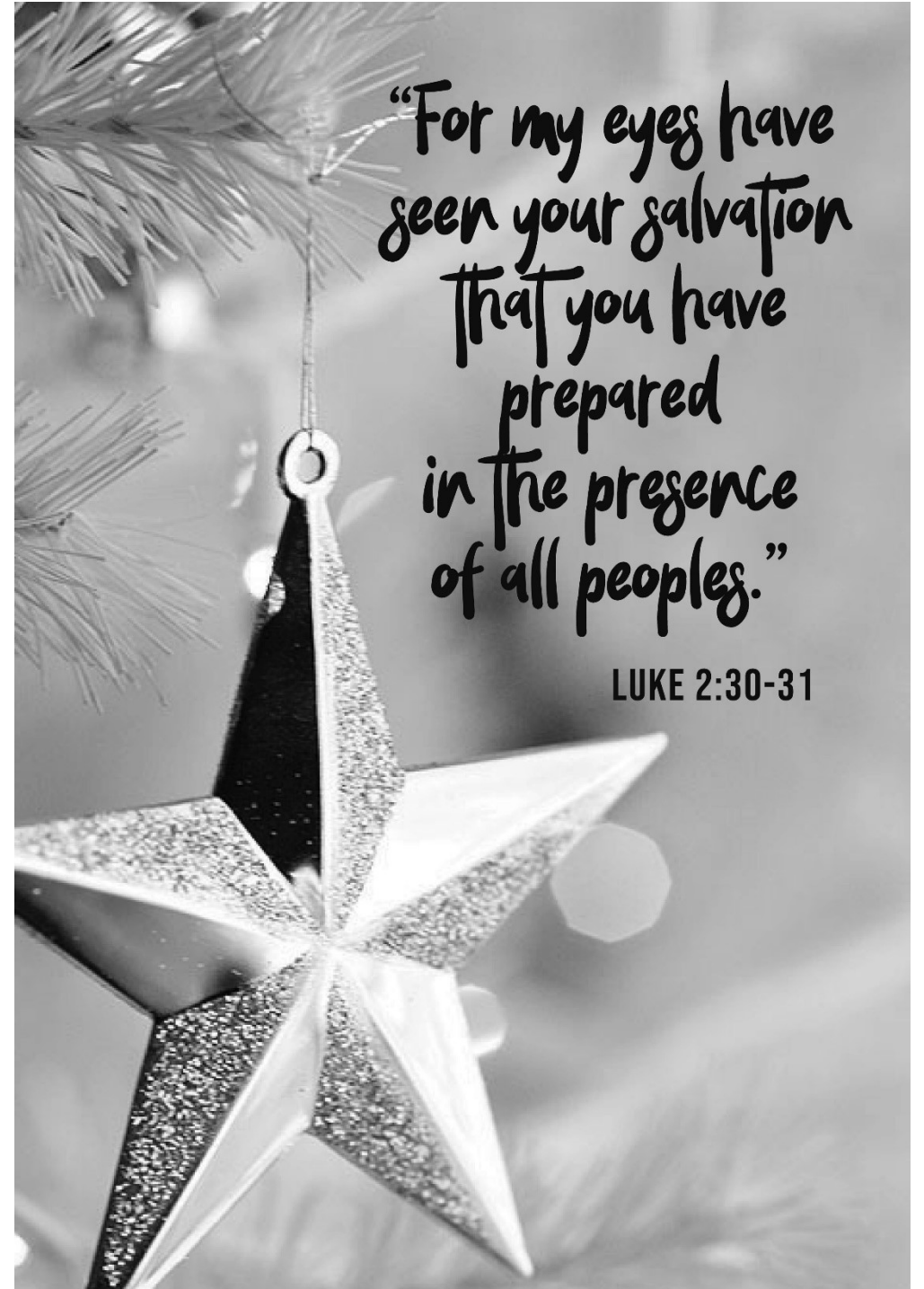
Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

Sunday Worship, 9 AM; Social Hour, 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:30 am

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

(Please remember to depart one pew at a time starting from the back. Those in the front pews may exit the side front door as well.)





*God, I pray for all who are lonely in this season, or exhausted, or grieving. Give them the courage of Mary as you fill them with the Holy Spirit.*

### **This Week Ahead**

Sunday, December 27	Worship First Sunday of Christmas	-Sanctuary, 9 am -CIA Class, Stage 10:30 am
Monday, December 28		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, December 30		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, January 1	New Year's Day	- OFFICE CLOSED
Sunday, January 3, 2021	Worship Second Sunday of Christmas	-Sanctuary, 9 am -CIA Class, Stage 10:30 am

### **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, Ralph Wunder, 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:**

Norman Burger and Jennie Rose Serfass

#### **Next Week's Ushers:**

Henry Krechel, Harry Koehler, Gabrielle Bentley, Star Barr, Chery Dorshimier

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

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

**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 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 Social Hall.** 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!



**Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, many events were cancelled throughout the year. But fun wasn't!** People everywhere are practicing social distancing, which often means confining oneself to home. Tired of everything on TV? Bored with housework? Trying to find the Christmas Spirit after learning that another holiday party or family get-together won't be happening this year? Want to try something different? You want to have

some fun? Something you or the whole family can do together? Well, put on your aprons, your Santa Claus Thinking Caps and let's make Gingerbread Houses! Yup! Let's have a contest at St. Matthew's UCC and see who can come up with the most creative, prettiest, or clever-ist Gingerbread structure. The rules are simple:

1. You cannot purchase a ready-made structure. You must make it. It can be a purchased kit, but you have to put it together. Or make your own original design.
2. Have fun!

The deadline is today, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. You can bring it to the CIA classroom anytime between now and then where we will put them on display. They will be judged and awards will be announced by 11:30 a.m. that day. This is open to any St. Matthew's member of all ages. If you have any questions, call Linda at 610-681-4617 or email [linhar@ptd.net](mailto:linhar@ptd.net).

**Our New Council members will be installed on January 10, 2021.** 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.