



Circleville Church of N. Huntingdon, PA
A Global Methodist Church
Christmas Eve

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Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Gloria A. Jun, Pastor

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Service 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Prelude... “*Ancient of Days, Newborn Tonight*” by Parker

Mary Jane Clark, Organist

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Gloria A. Jun

*Passing the Peace of Christ

*Call to Worship:

Leader: All people are welcome here tonight.

People: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus’ birth.

Leader: All who walk in darkness,

People: come see a great light.

Leader: All who hope to see God,

People: come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Leader: All who are simply waiting to see what’s next,

People: come see the good news God brings.

Leader: Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

People: We rejoice that God’s grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

*Opening Prayer (In Unison):

Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ—your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice and joy. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer hope to those around us. Help us see your glory breaking into our lives, as Mary and shepherds before us saw. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.

*Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle – Tyrone, Olivia, So-young and Robert

Tonight, we light all the candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The candles of hope, peace, love and joy all remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, everlasting peace, boundless love, and endless joy. The Christ candle reminds us that God’s perfect gift was sent to us that we might have life abundant and everlasting. Joy to the world, and peace on earth. Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

Advent Candle Lighting Song #2090 (TFWS) (in Unison)

THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS:

Nancy and Scott Goodish

The Promise of the Coming of Messiah – Isaiah 11:1-10 (NKJV)

Carol #216 “*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*”

His Coming is Announced to Mary and Joseph – Luke 1:26-27 (NKJV)

Carol #215 “*To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*”

The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV)

Anthem: “*A Christmas Prayer*” by Paul Marino and Greg Nelson

Sung by the Ladies’ Ensemble

The Shepherds Visitation of the Savior of the World – Luke 2:8-16 (NKJV)

Carol #218 – “*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*”

The Wise Men Find the King of the Jews – Matthew 2:1-11 (NKJV)

Carol #254 “*We Three Kings*”

The Christmas Offering

The Offertory... “*What is This Lovely Fragrance?*” by Scott

The Doxology #95

“*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Christmas Prayer

Meditation... “*Joy of the Good News*”

Pastor Gloria A. Jun

Lights will be dimmed.

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING

*Hymn #239 vs. 1 & 4 – “*Silent Night*”

- 1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 4. Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

Christmas Proclamation

*Christmas Celebration #246

“*Joy to the World*”

- 1. 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.**

2. **Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!**
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. **No more let sins and sorrows grow,**
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. **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.

*The Benediction

*The Postlude... *“Ring Out, Ye Wild and Merry Bells”* by Maitland

*(*Please stand, if able)*

The Promise of the Coming Messiah – Isaiah 11:1-10 (NKJV)

There shall come forth a ^[a]Rod from the ^[b]stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall ^[c]grow out of his roots.

²The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

³His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

⁴But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

⁶“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious."

His Coming is Announced to Mary and Joseph – Luke 1:26-27 (NKJV)

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary.

The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV)

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed ^[a]wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a ^[b]manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds Visitation of the Savior of the World – Luke 2:8-16 (NKJV)

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And ^[a]behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a ^[b]manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill^[c] toward men!"

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

The Wise Men Find the King of the Jews – Matthew 2:1-11 (NKJV)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, ^[a]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the ^[b]wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Sermon Notes:

Bible verses supporting the truth that only Christ can give true joy

Psalm 16:11 (NIV)

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

John 15:11 (NIV)

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

John 16:22 (NIV)

“So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Merry Christmas



“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.”

– John 1:14

Pastor Jun and the Circleville Leadership