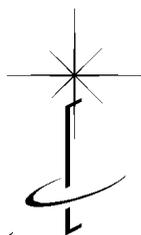


Mulberry Street United Methodist Church

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Five O'clock



Music of the Season

Beginning at 4:30

*Calista Ann Koch, Harp
Sarah Kate Sellers, Soprano
Chris Abbott, Tenor
Greg Elliott, Baritone
Cam Bishop, Piano*

Candlelight Communion Service

Greeting

Rev. Jimmy Towson

*Tonight is a holy night -
a night of stars and angels,
a night of shepherds and sheep,
and a family in a stable.*

*Tonight we celebrate in memory and in hope
the birth of our Savior,
the Holy Child of Bethlehem.*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

*Gather us around the manger, Lord Jesus;
let us sing in awe of the miracle of your birth.
You were born in the shadow of a cross,
and you came to be our Savior:
Give us grace to praise your gift of love,
to know the joy of the life you bring to all.
Give us the eyes of a child to see all things new
and the wisdom of a sage
to remember the promises of old.
Open our hearts to receive you joyfully,
for you are God's gift to the world,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.***

**Congregational Carol No. 238
'Angels We Have Heard on High' GLORIA*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle
Joe and Margaret Brogdon*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For the darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the people.
But the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.*

*We light the Christ candle as a sign
of good news for all people:
God's Messiah has come!
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!*

*Confession and Pardon
Rev. Bill Culpepper*

*Prepare our hearts, O God,
to receive the Christ Child once more.
Let us pray together.*

*When we are lost in darkness,
shine your light into the darkness of our world.
When the gloom clings tightly to us,
shine your glory into the shadows of our lives.
Overcome our fear, Holy One,
and inspire us to leave our flocks,
and seek the Christ Child this night.
Prepare our hearts, O God,
to behold your precious gift in awe and wonder.*

Silent Confession

*'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness -
on them the light has shined.'
Receive forgiveness. Receive light.
Walk in God's light. Forgiven.*

*The Peace of Christ be with you on this holy night.
And also with you.*

*Homily
Rev. Jimmy Towson
"The Miracle of It All"
Luke 2:1-7 (KJV)*

**Congregational Carol No. 219*
'What Child is This' GREENSLEEVES

Offertory Prayer
Rev. Tommy Perkins

Offering of our Gifts

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving
Hymnal Page 13

The Lord's Prayer

Giving of the Bread and Cup

**Candlelight Carol*
'Silent Night'

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Song of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

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!

**Benediction*
Rev. Jimmy Towson

Assisting in Worship

Rev. Jimmy Towson, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tommy Perkins, Associate Pastor

Rev. Bill Culpepper, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries

Cam Bishop, Director of Music/Organist

Rev. Sam Lamback, Communion Server

Emma Johnston, Crucifer & Communion Steward

Micah Johnston & John Morgan Manley, Candlelighters

Sarah Hammond & Conner Hefner,

Communion Ushers & Pew Candlelighters

Chace Crowell & Trey Powell, Pew Candlelighters

About this service...

We're glad you are worshipping with us this Christmas Eve and hope that the following notes will be helpful as you experience our candlelight communion service.

Receiving Communion

An acolyte will assist you in knowing when it is time for those on your pew to be served.

As you move through the serving line, you will be given a piece of bread by a minister.

Hold the bread, step to the cup, and then dip it into the cup before eating.

Please use the center aisle when going to receive communion, and the side aisles when returning to your seat.

After receiving the elements, you may return directly to your pew or you may go to the altar for prayer.

After everyone has been served, the ministers will take the elements to those who are unable to come forward. Please tell an usher if you need assistance.

Offerings

There are two opportunities this evening to offer monetary gifts to the church.

Money given as the plates are passed goes to the general church budget.

The offering given during communion is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which provides assistance to people in need in our church and community.

Those who wish to contribute may leave their offering at the altar rail or in the offering plates located in the side aisles.

Candles

An acolyte will distribute candles for the candle lighting ceremony as you return to your pew after communion.

Please place your candles in the baskets as you leave the church.