

### Participants

Pastor Donald Dunn  
Camille Price & Christy Price  
David and Penny Clees  
Mary Fulk  
Betsy Pecka  
Carla Ryan  
Allison Pheasant  
Joseph Hernandez  
McKinley & Walker Fulk  
Tresa Poe & Keven DeGraw

Thank you to all for lending your voices to readings  
and to those contributing their musical talents for our worship service  
tonight.

### **OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor.....Don Dunn, [pastor@umcephrata.org](mailto:pastor@umcephrata.org)  
Admin. Assistant.....Tresa Poe, [office@umcephrata.org](mailto:office@umcephrata.org)  
Custodian.....Jamie Downing  
Pianist.....Betsy Pecka  
Chaplain.....Penny Clees

117 C. Street NW, Ephrata, WA 98823  
Office (509) 754-4664

Email: [office@umcephrata.org](mailto:office@umcephrata.org)  
Website: [www.umcephrata.org](http://www.umcephrata.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/umcofephrata.org](https://www.facebook.com/umcofephrata.org)  
Church office hours are Monday - Wednesday 9am-1pm, Thursdays  
9am-12pm

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2019– 7:00pm



The United Methodist Church of Ephrata

“We Serve God by Serving Others”

## Prelude

**ALL:** Let Us Go Over To Bethlehem!

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing the joyous strains. "Gloria  
in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

**ONE:** Can you imagine the shepherds' surprise at seeing a choir of  
angels singing with joy the news of Christ's birth? Can you sense the  
wonder? Do you share perhaps their fear?

**ALL:** Joy and fear join hands this night. Hope and despair are  
well known to us But we have heard the news - Christ is born!  
And after weeks of waiting and watching, we are ready to cele-  
brate! We are ready to worship the Holy Child. We are ready to  
welcome Christ into our hearts.

**ONE:** The Gospel of Luke reads that the shepherds heard the  
news and then went off to Bethlehem to find the newborn babe, the  
hope of ages, God's Promised One! These four familiar flames to us  
will light our way to the Christ child's side.

*(Lighting of Four Outer Candles) David Clees*

**ALL:** Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains pro-  
long? What the gladsome tiding be which inspire your heav'nly  
song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**ONE:** People of God, your waiting in darkness is over.  
The Light of God's promise has dawned.  
Even now Christ the Child, Christ the Savior,  
seeks entrance into our hearts.

*(Light the Christ Candle) Penny Clees*



**Prayer of the People - Response: Your Mercy Is Great**

**Offering for His Helping Hands**

**Music by Allison Pheasant - Breath of Heaven**

**\*Doxology**

**Light Candles (Camille and Christy Price)**

**Sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem, V. 1 & 4 (Hymnal 230)**

**Sing: Silent Night (Hymnal 239)**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

***ALL: Prayer - God of mystery, help us accept our gifts of grace that we cannot begin to understand. Plant a stubborn hope deep in our hearts as we will be able to embrace the Christ-child when Jesus is birthed anew in our lives. Teach us your ways of joy. Amen.***

**Gathering and Greeting**

**Opening Words**

ONE: Do not be afraid; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy.

**ALL: To us is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

ONE: This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in cloth

and lying in a manger.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace!**

ONE: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

**Sing: Hark the Harold Angels Sing, V. 1 & 3 (Hymnal 240)**

**Opening Prayer**

**Music by Walker & McKinley Fulk - Angels from on High**

**Reading by Mary Fulk - The Plastic Angel by Ann Weems**

**Sing: Joy To The World, V. 1 & 3 (Hymnal 246)**

***One: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!***

***All: A light no darkness can extinguish.***

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2-7 (pew Bible page 489)  
“Darkness everywhere but people have seen great light.”

**Music by Tresa Poe & Keven DeGraw - Do You Hear What I Hear**

**Reading by Camille Price - Christmas is for...by Peter Owen Jones**

**Sing: Psalm 96 (to the music of We Sing the Greatness of our God)**

*O sing new songs unto the Lord,  
With shouts God's name adore;  
Proclaim salvation day by day,  
God's glory evermore!  
Our God to whom all voices rise  
Is worthy of our praise;  
Who formed the earth beneath our feet,  
The sun to light our days.  
All lesser idols fade away,  
As wisdom intercedes;  
The greatest feats our minds conceive  
Are pale beside God's deeds.  
O heav'ns, be glad; O earth, rejoice!  
Your deeds and praise accord  
To God, and with creation sing  
The glories of the Lord.*

**Scripture:** Titus 2:11-14 (pew Bible page 844)  
“The Grace of God has Appeared to Us.”

**Sing:** Good Christian Friends Rejoice, V. 1 (Hymnal 224)

**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-7 (pew Bible page 724) “The Birth of Jesus”

**Sing: - Her Baby Newly Breathing (To the tune of Merle's Tune)**

(Brian Wren 1987 One time use permission, Chalice Press)

Her baby, newly breathing, with wailing needful cry,  
by Mary kissed and cradled, is lulled in lullaby.  
Long months of hope and waiting, the thrill and fear of birth,  
are crowned with exultation, and God is on the earth.

The eyes that gaze at Mary have yet to name or trace  
the world of shape and color, or recognize a face;  
yet Holiness Eternal is perfectly expressed in hands  
that clutch unthinking, and lips that thug the breast.

The milk of life is flowing as Mary guides and feeds  
her wordless Word, embodied in infant joys and needs.  
Enormous, formless strivings, and yearnings deep and wide,  
be cradled in communion, are fed and satisfied.

How mother like the Wisdom that carried and gave birth  
to all things, seen and unseen, and nurtured infant earth:  
unstinting, unprotected, prepared for nail and thorn,  
constricted into maleness and of a woman born.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-14 (pew Bible page 725) “Angels Announce”

**Sing:** O Come All Ye Faithful, V. 1 & 4 (Hymnal 234)

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-20 (pew Bible page 725)  
“Shepherds go to Bethlehem”

**Music by Joseph Hernandez - O Holy Night**