

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
Admin. Assistant.....	Tresa Poe, office@umcephrata.org
Custodian.....	Jamie Downing
Pianist.....	Betsy Pecka
Chaplain.....	Penny Clees

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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 celebrate! 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 prolong? 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