

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

1760 Pine Hollow Road • McKees Rocks PA 15136

www.kenmawrchurch.org

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

PREPARATION & WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN #182

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; Glory to God, all glory in the highest
O come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

CCLI #800917, #20719925

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things and our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your sheer gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us today to focus on your Christmas grace and help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn #188

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!

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TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (Because kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

HYMN #229

"The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN #180

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love. O morning stars,
together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heaven. No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.*

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SERMON

“To Bethlehem”

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

-2021 Offering envelopes may be picked up at the church-

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND RESPONSE

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo!*

CANDLELIGHTING

John 1:1-5, 9 & 14

HYMN #186

“Silent Night, Holy 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! Son 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.*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

-Participants-

Rev. Dr. Karl McDonald, Pastor
Mrs. Jayne McDonald, Music Director
Mr. Eric Baker, Violinist
Mrs. Susan Chimera, Candlelighter
Rev. Dr. Robert Downs, Parish Associate
Mr. Bart Huchel, Reader
Mr. Bucky Savatt, Reader

