



Welcome to Worship at

# CHRIST

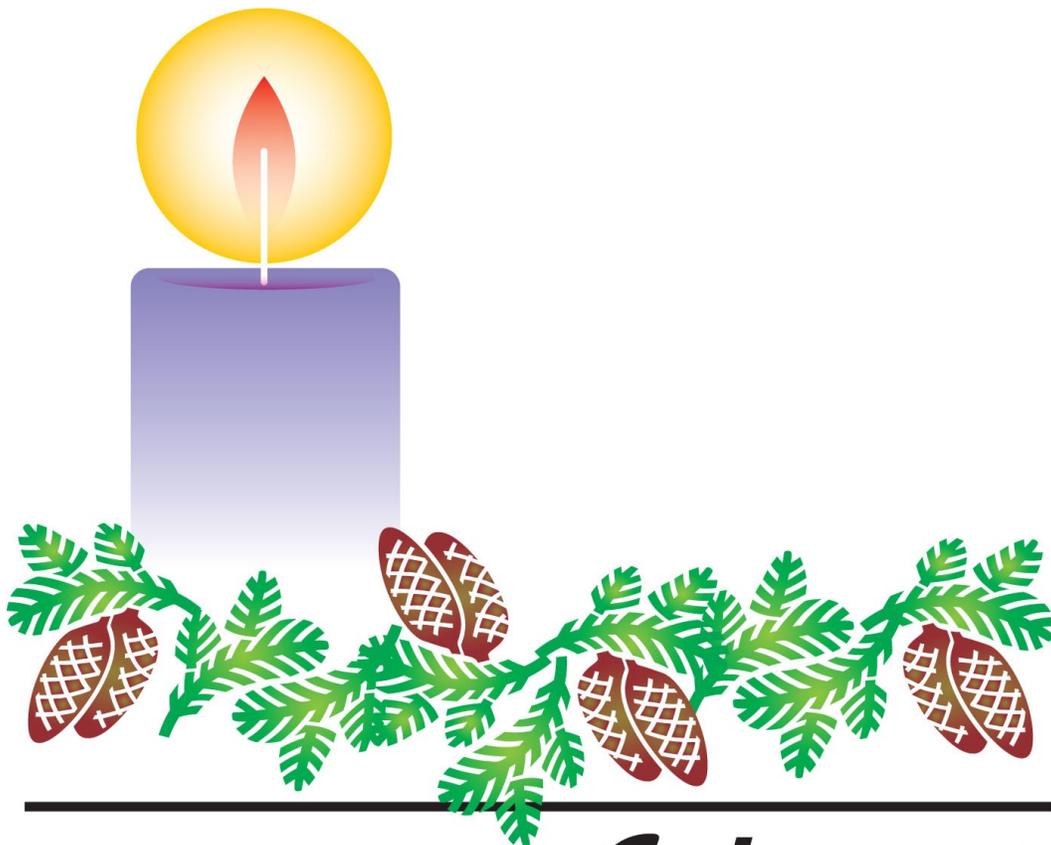
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Encounter Christ    Grow Disciples    Serve Others

*Transforming Lives in the Love of Jesus Christ*

*December 3, 2017*

*8:30a.m. & 11:00a.m.*



---

FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

---

---

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

## Encounters with Christ

MEDITATION - *Blessed be the God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty Savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.* -Luke 1:68-70

\*please stand if you are able

### GATHERING

WORSHIP BEFORE WORSHIP (10:35)

Fish Food

PASTORAL GREETING

PRELUDE

Gloria Dei Ringers

*The Holly and the Ivy*

V.W. Stephenson

(Please use this time to prepare your heart for worship.)

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP –

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

**People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

**People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

**People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

**People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

\*HYMN

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

No. 196

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING

Jeremiah 23:5-6

*<sup>5</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."*

(The cedar branch is placed.)

In ancient times the cedar tree was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this cedar branch as a sign of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

HYMN

**“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

No. 213

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN

Isaiah 9:2, 6&7

<sup>2</sup> "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.  
(The wreath is hung.)

Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as a sign of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang the wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

ANTHEM (8:30)

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Chancel Choir

M. Luther

ANTHEM (11:00)

*Light One Candle*

Cherub Choir

N. Sleeth

CHILDREN'S SERMON (11:00)

Pastor Bernhardt

Children age 4 through Grade 3 may leave the Sanctuary after the Children's Sermon and go to Circuit Kids in Rooms 25 & 26.

THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG

Isaiah 53:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
<sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
(The holly and the ivy are placed.)

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by his death on the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. Their prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark, the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly and ivy, let us worship Jesus, our Savior.

HYMN

**"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

No. 626, vs. 1 & 2

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-5, 10-14

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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.*

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Christmas tree. During this Advent, wherever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

(The Chrismon tree is lit.)

\*HYMN

**"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

No. 206, vs. 1 & 3

(Present the final ornament.)

Hanging on our Chrismon Tree are ornaments in white and gold, the liturgical colors of Christmas. White represents Christ's purity and perfection, gold his glory and majesty. Each ornament is a symbol of who God is.

UNISON PRAYER - Blessing of the Chrismon Tree

**Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts through faith in him. Amen.**

HYMN

**"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

No. 216

THE MYSTERY OF SALVATION

John 3:14-16

*<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

(Place final poinsettia.)

During this season of Advent, let the scarlet red of each poinsettia we see remind us of the precious blood of salvation.

UNISON PRAYER - Blessing of the Poinsettias

**Loving God, you sent your only Son into the world to die so we might live. As we view the lovely poinsettias this season may we be reminded of your love poured out for us from your cross so long ago. Fill our hearts with your love that our lives may be lived to praise you now and always. Amen.**

HYMN

**"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"**

No. 204

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**All: Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May we reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

You may complete a prayer card in the pew rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of our pastors.

## OFFERTORY

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. D. Cherwien

## \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

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

## **THANKSGIVING and COMMUNION**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

pg. 15

## THE LORD'S PRAYER – use “trespasses”

pg. 895

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP - Communion will be served in the pews. The ushers will give the elements to the person on each end of the pews. You may then pass it to the other end. Take the bread (gluten-free available) and cup, holding each until the pastor instructs you to consume it. In the tradition of Wesley's “singing communion,” we invite you to sing the following CAROL ...**211 vs. 1-3 then 4-7**

## PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

### **SENDING FORTH**

## \*HYMN

**“People, Look East”**

No. 202

## \*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

## \*POSTLUDE

*Postlude on “Hyfrydol”*

arr. J. Payne

(If you are able, please remain in the pews briefly for the postlude.)

## Health and Healing...

Bill Schwarz

Esther Loews

Caroline Reid

Doris Ross

Allison King

\*indicates newly added

## Financial Information: Special Offerings...

Mission of the Month:

November—**United Methodist Scholarships**

**\$905.50**

December—**Hedwig House**

**\$346.00**

Attendance - November 26, 2017    8:30: **91**    11:00: **175**

## Needs, Requests, and Announcements...

- With Christmas approaching, we hope you will consider purchasing **Grocery Gift Cards** at our Hospitality Desk for your holiday food shopping. Christ UMC earns a minimum of 5% on all gift card sales for Acme, Giant, Henning's, ShopRite, and Weis food stores plus a generous 25% for Lansdale Deli sales. In addition, you may purchase gift cards for Kohl's, CVS, Applebee's, Boston Market, Boscov's, and i-Tunes for those on your Christmas gift list. All earnings from the sale of Grocery and Gift Cards are applied against our church mortgage principle.
- **2018-2019 Preschool Registration** for church members is now open. If you are interested in registering your child or want to learn more, please call Mary Conroy at (215) 412-7836.
- The **2018 Operating Budget** for Christ UMC will be presented at the Church Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 7pm. All church members are invited to attend and hear the presentation, ask questions and express their views prior to the Church Council's vote. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Hospitality Desk

## Special Happenings This Week at Christ United Methodist Church...

**Today:** Christmas Cookie Shoppe in Rose Garden Room 8

1pm– Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal in the Lounge

**Tuesday, December 5:**

7pm– Church Council Budget Meeting in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 6:**

6:30pm– Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

7pm– Building Committee Meeting in Reichley Room

**Friday, December 8:**

6pm– Youth Ice Skating at Hatfield Ice

**Saturday, December 9:**

8am-10am-Santa Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

3pm– Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 10:**

9:45am– Sunday School Pageant in the Sanctuary

11am– Circuit Kids Caroling at Brittany Pointe

12pm– Mission Committee Meeting in Reichley Room

### Breakfast with Santa!!!!

All you can eat pancakes and sausage on Saturday, December 9 from 8am-10:30am! Plus hot chocolate for the kids! Have your picture taken with Santa! Prices are \$3.00 for adults, \$1.50 for children under 12, with a maximum of \$8.00 per family. There are no advance ticket sales -all tickets will be sold at the door that morning. **So we may better serve you, please sign up on the Breakfast with Santa Sign-up sheet located at the Preschool Lobby entrance.**

We again need many volunteers to make this event happen. Volunteers (women, men and older youth) are needed for: Friday night set-up on Dec 8th (starts at 7pm)- 5 people, Saturday breakfast "Greeters" – 4 people, Saturday clean –up (starts at 10:30 am) - 7-8 people

Get on Santa's "Nice" list by volunteering! Contact Pat (610-489-3539 or pshuey062886@gmail.com).



### 2017 Sunday School Pageant

This year's annual Sunday school pageant, *The Not So Silent Night* will highlight shepherds who face trial for disturbing the peace with their exciting musical announcement of the birth of Jesus. Our Sunday school children will present this message on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am in the sanctuary.

### Collage Concert

On Sunday, December 17th, at 4:30pm and 7pm, come hear a truly unique musical experience from all corners of the sanctuary! In 60 minutes of uninterrupted music, you will enjoy up to twenty different selections presented by an array of ensembles and soloists. This concert is free and open to the public, so bring your family and friends! It is a great concert for kids! Please note - due to the nature of the concert please arrive early - the doors will close at 4:30pm and 7pm for each concert and we don't want you to miss this awesome event! We will be doing the same concert in the two times to accommodate the audience comfortably.



### CODE BLUE Volunteers Needed

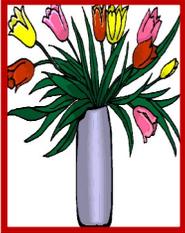
During the winter months (December—March) the Montgomery County Health Department declares "Code Blue" if night time temperatures are 20° or below. When this occurs, volunteers and shelter space at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, are ready to provide overnight shelter to North Penn area homeless men. Volunteers from Trinity and other local churches, including Christ United Methodist Church, staff the shelter from 7:30 PM to 9:00 AM in three shifts: intake, overnight, and breakfast/clean-up. Homeless men can seek refuge at Trinity on their own or by referral through local county agencies, including local police.



Trinity is working to expand its volunteer base this year. Both male and female volunteers are needed! You get to interact with the men, get to know their stories and help them as best you can. New volunteers are provided training on-site during Code Blue nights. Anyone who would like to help out can sign up for time slots through the dedicated Code Blue page on the church website [TrinityLansdale.com](http://TrinityLansdale.com). You may contact Phil Woodruff (610-584-8595) or Lanny Whitehouse (610-584-5819), our CUMC coordinators, if you have any questions.

# Welcome to Worship

Members, Regular Attendees, and Visitors, please fill out the attendance sheet in the teal folder at the end of your pew. Pass the folder to your fellow worshipers then return it to the center aisle. **First Time Visitors:** please also complete a blue "CONNECT" card in the pew rack in front of you; it may be placed in the offering plate. Also, pick up a Welcome Packet at the Welcome Table before you leave. If you have special needs, please see one of our ushers. A Nursery is available in the Preschool Wing (room 21).



**Today's altar flowers** are presented by Joan Todd in celebration and thanksgiving for the improvement of her son's health.

**Today's pedestal flowers** are presented by Gordon McPherson in loving memory of Elaine McPherson.

- Liturgists:** 8:30—  
11:00— Stephanie Shuey
- Acolytes:** 8:30— Anna Weatherwax and Holly Harrison  
11:00— Haruka Weir
- Greeters:** 8:30— Anna & Bruce Shelton  
11:00— Fred & Carol Wynne
- Lay Readers:** 8:30— Jill Benchouk  
11:00— Deb Scott
- Sound Technicians:** 8:30—Ryan Fealy  
11:00— Nick Hill
- Nursery Volunteers:** 8:30—Jessica Snyder and Wendy Clemmer  
9:45— Carolyn Hadka  
11:00— Judi Plummer and Laura McCarney
- Circuit Kids:** Anne Marie Legates and Jessica Snyder
- Communion Steward:** Anna & Bruce Shelton
- Ushers:** 8:30—Jim Hare, Tony Trifiletti, Jeff Baer, Mark Stauffer, Ray McClain, and John Sullivan  
11:00—Al Scott, Joe Loscalzo, Jack Ripley, Dana Ripley, Michael Horvath, John Renner, Krystyna Supplee, Mark Supplee, Terrence Hamill, and Sarah Hamill
- Phil Woodruff** is this month's captain.

Church Website	<a href="http://www.cumclansdale.org">www.cumclansdale.org</a>
Church Phone	215-855-1643
Preschool Phone	215-412-7836
Church E-mail	<a href="mailto:secretary@cumclansdale.org">secretary@cumclansdale.org</a>
Trustees E-mail	<a href="mailto:trustees@cumclansdale.org">trustees@cumclansdale.org</a>
Prayer Concerns	<a href="mailto:prayers@cumclansdale.org">prayers@cumclansdale.org</a>

## CUMC STAFF

Rev. Gary Nicholson, Pastor	<a href="mailto:gary.nicholson@cumclansdale.org">gary.nicholson@cumclansdale.org</a>
Rev. Tawny Bernhardt, Pastor, Children's Ministries	<a href="mailto:tawny.bernhardt@cumclansdale.org">tawny.bernhardt@cumclansdale.org</a>
Pastor Eric Chelton, Assistant Pastor	<a href="mailto:eric.chelton@cumclansdale.org">eric.chelton@cumclansdale.org</a>
Pastor Rodney Brailsford, Director of Student Ministries	<a href="mailto:rodney.brailsford@cumclansdale.org">rodney.brailsford@cumclansdale.org</a>
Marge Kramer, Director of Congregational Care	<a href="mailto:marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org">marge.kramer@cumclansdale.org</a>
Miki Chelton, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:miki.chelton@cumclansdale.org">miki.chelton@cumclansdale.org</a>
Mary Conroy, Preschool Director	<a href="mailto:mary.conroy@cumclansdale.org">mary.conroy@cumclansdale.org</a>
Nikki Young, Church Office Manager	<a href="mailto:nikki.young@cumclansdale.org">nikki.young@cumclansdale.org</a>

See our full staff list on our website

[www.cumclansdale.org](http://www.cumclansdale.org)—and click on About Us.