

Elkton United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. † 11:00 a.m.

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- Before the service begins, please give your white prayer request card to an usher.
 - Please see an usher if you would like to have a large print bulletin or hymnal.
 - All worshipers are asked to sign the attendance register. If you are a guest, please fill out all the information. As the register is passed back down the pew, make note of those sitting near you so you can greet them after the service.
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LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES AND RINGING OF CHIMES

GREETING AND WELCOME

TIME OF CENTERING PRAYER

AND PRELUDE “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” ARR. BY HOPSON

SUNG RESPONSE #211 (UMH)..... “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” (stanza 4)

**O come, thou Root of Jesse’s tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: Joy to the world! This, then, is the culmination of our waiting.
We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, of joy. In the glow of
their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

People: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Leader: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately
captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely
describes what we know of our God.

**People: We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await
the dawning of God’s pervasive and enduring love once more this
Christmas season.**

The candles of hope, peace, joy and love are lighted.

**HYMN #202 (UMH) “PEOPLE, LOOK EAST”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**O Holy One, who surrounds our lives with grace, we confess that our eyes are dull.
Your presence in our lives takes us by surprise. We see only the outer signs: the baby,**

**the feeding-place for cattle, the tired mother and father. Help us to know you, not only
in the angels’ song, but in the ordinary happenings of our lives, that we may be
channels of your grace in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF PARDON AND ASSURANCE

MUSICAL OFFERING – (8:30 & 11:00) – STEVE GILMORE, SOLOIST

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RESPONSE #3051 (W&S) “A STAR SHONE BRIGHT” (stanza 2)

**O Son of God, Incarnate Word, O Wisdom’s Light, whom angels heard,
come forth again, our hearts console. O heal our hurts and make us whole.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY – “FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME” SETTING BY WALTHER

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE (sung to the tune of “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit, glory to the Three-In-One.
Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,
as we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

ADVENT CANTATA

Visit Us, Emmanuel
(Words and music by Pepper Choplin)

Arise, Behold His Glory!
(Arranged by Benjamin Harlan)

The Angel Gabriel
(Words by Sabine Baring-Gould, Music by Joel Raney)

Song of Mary
(Music by Faye Lopez, Words by Patricia Mock and Faye Lopez)
Soloist – Vanessa Foskey

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild
(English Version by John Colman, Words by Johann Walther)
Soprano I – Linda Carey, Teresa White
Soprano II – Vanessa Foskey, Susan Johnson
Alto – Cheryl McKeown, Linda Rittenhouse
Tenor – Alan Foskey, Steve Gilmore
Bass – Sid Bledsoe, Ron Fetterolf

See, Amid the Winter’s Snow
(Words by Edward Caswall, Arranged by Dan Forrest)

CLOSING PRAYER

**HYMN #213 (UMH) “LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES”

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together in love.

POSTLUDE “FUGUE IN A MAJOR” ZACHAU



**Indicates the congregation should stand if able

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal (red cover)

TFWS: The Faith We Sing (black cover) - found in the rack underneath the pew in front of you

W&S: Worship & Song (green cover)



STAFF OF ELKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Peggy Johnson, Bishop
Joe Archie, District Superintendent

Karen F. Bunnell Senior Pastor
Ray Graham..... Associate Pastor of Visitation Ministries
Paul Deemer Handbell Director
Steven Gilmore..... Choir Director
Katie Sparks Director of Children and Education Ministries
Kay Mortimer Secretary
Bill Vassalotti Treasurer
Sandy Wherry Director of Youth
Sharon Williams Organist/Coordinator of Music Ministries
Donald Ewing/Donna Horgan Sextons

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS! We welcome all to worship at Elkton UMC this morning, and extend a special welcome to all who are visiting with us this morning. Please fill out the blue visitor card located in the pew racks. We also have a gift for all first-time visitors to our church. It is available from the welcome center or from the ushers in the foyer. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive the gift, just speak to one of the ushers as you're leaving the worship service this morning, and they will see that you receive one! Once again, welcome to worship at Elkton UMC!

COPIES OF TODAY'S SERMON/VIDEO OF TODAY'S SERMON – Several persons with hearing difficulties have found it helpful to have a copy of the sermon and read along as it is preached, therefore copies are now available from the ushers should you wish to have one. Videos of our 11 a.m. weekly service are now available online as well. To see a video, go the church website, elktonumc.org, and click on the "Sermons" link and there you will see a link to our You Tube channel where all EUMC videos are available.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – Today at 10 a.m., the children and youth of our Sunday School program will be presenting their Christmas pageant in Weldin Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and support our young people as they share the Good News of Christmas!

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – This service, designed for those who suffered loss or are struggling this year, will be held this afternoon at 4 p.m. here in the sanctuary. It is a quiet, contemplative service, lasting about 45 minutes.

OFFERING FOR A NEW ORGAN – Today is the first official day of the Fund Drive for our New Organ! If you weren't here last week to get an offering envelope, there are envelopes in the pew racks, or you can see an usher for one. Please give as generously as you can – and if you can't give right now, please take a white prayer card and on it write what you think you'll be giving in the future (and then place it in the offering envelope).

CALLING ALL TRAVELERS! The Classic Christians are planning on hitting the road again in the spring of 2017. This time they're headed off to Niagara Falls and Toronto, Canada. The trip will take place from Monday, May 15 – Friday, May 19. Final details are still being hammered out, but we do know that the cost will be approximately \$675/person double occupancy, and that everyone on the trip will have to have either a passport or the passport card (which allows entrance into Canada/Mexico/Caribbean). Flyers about the trip will be on the Welcome Center soon.

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas Eve Services – 5 p.m. (Family Service), 7 & 9 p.m. Identical Candlelight Services, 10-10:30 p.m. Silent Communion in the Sanctuary

Christmas Day Worship – One Service at 10 a.m. – Casual service of music and stories – wear your Christmas sweater!

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Services
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Child Care/Nursery Birth through Kindergarten (Rm. 24)
9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal (Room 1)
9:45 AM Sunday School (All Ages)
9:45 AM Children's Christmas Program (Weldin Hall)
4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016

6:00 PM Cub Scouts Pack 443 (Weldin Hall)
7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop 443 (Room 1)
7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Room 21)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

6:30 AM Men's Breakfast (Elkton Diner)
6:30 PM Men's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

8:00 PM AA Meeting (Room 1)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2016

Office Closed
Christmas Holiday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2016 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM Family Service
7:00 PM Candlelight Service
9:00 PM Candlelight Service
10:00-10:30 PM Silent Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016 – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

10:00 AM Worship Service

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Worship Leader: Judy Pugh

Cantata Narrator: Dick Gochnauer

Acolytes: 8:30 – Emmett Slayman 11:00 – Alice Mackie

Greeters: 8:30 – Betty and Ed Sprague 11:00 – Betty McCarthy and
Virginia Biles

Welcome Center:

8:10-8:30 & 10:40-11:00 &
9:30-9:50 – Barb Pinder 12:00-12:20 – Donna Perkins

Hostesses: 8:30 – Andee McKenica and 11:00 – Linda Kosinski and
Judy Tanner Kim Heath

Hall Monitors: 8:30 – Don Andrews 11:00 – Roger Robinson

Nursery: 8:30 – Paige Laning 11:00 – Evelyn Jones

Tech Team: 8:30 – Joe Buckley and 11:00 – Rich Juergens and
Rob Kovicak Damien Hollyday

Parking Lot

Knights: Kevin White, Wayne Eller, Ken McCoy, Bob Perkins, Gary Lewis,
Rod Perrine and Jack Williams.

Ushers: 8:30 – Gifford Biles, Murray Thompson, Rich Gruebel, Rich Achuff,
Jane MacDonald, Bob MacDonald, Deb McDowell and Ted
McDowell.
11:00 – Frank Deibert, Charlie Campbell, Ken McCoy, Ray Whiteoak,
Bob Mitchell, Bob Perkins and Mike Schmook.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in loving memory of Jack Loomis given by his wife Ruth and family.

FLOWERS ON THE ORGAN are in loving memory of our daughter Tina given by Wayne and Maryann Scholz.

AVAILABLE ALL MORNING – Nursery care is available during this morning's worship services. The nursery is located in Rooms 22-24 and is staffed by Yolanda Gomez, a professional childcare worker, assisted by volunteers from our congregation. One of our ushers can guide you there. New children are welcome! Also, please know that it is perfectly fine to leave the worship service with your child if they become restless or unhappy. Your child will be happier and those seated around you will appreciate your thoughtfulness.