Elkton United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve 2017
5:00 p.m. Family Service

PRELUDE .....“IN DULCI JUBILO”..... J. S. BACH

GREETING AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!
People: This is the night of the Holy Birth!
Leader: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!
People: Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.
Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!
People: Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! Amen!

**HYMN #240 (UMH) ..... “HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

PRAYER (in unison)

On this holy night, O God, we turn our hearts to you. You are our hope, our light, and our salvation. On this holy night, O God, we celebrate the joy of your coming, and yearn to be born anew. On this holy night, O God, we celebrate the mystery of your coming, awed at how you humbled yourself to be one of us. On this holy night, O God, we welcome the Christ Child: born in a barn among animals, wrapped in bands of cloth, and laid in a feeding trough. On this holy night, O God, we rejoice in your Son Jesus, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING.....“SILENT NIGHT”.....CHILDREN’S CHOIR

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL LESSON AS SEEN IN “CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN” VIDEO

SUNG RESPONSE #246 (UMH).....“JOY TO THE WORLD” (stanza 1)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

MUSICAL OFFERING .....“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”..... JOE AND BEN INGRAM

A CHRISTMAS STORY, *LITTLE PORCUPINE’S CHRISTMAS* Written by Joseph Slate
Illustrated by Felicia Bond

(The children are invited to come forward for the reading of the story.)

**HYMN #230 (UMH) ..... “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

CHRISTMAS 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 #217 (UMH)..... “AWAY IN A MANGER” (stanza 3)

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY.....“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”..... ARR. BY HOPSON

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE, #94 (UMH)..... .“PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia**

**HYMN #251 (UMH) ..... “GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE .....“PRAISE YE THE LORD OF HOSTS”..... SAINT-SAENS

**Indicates the congregation should stand if able
UMH: United Methodist Hymnal (red cover)

Clergy: Rev. Karen Bunnell
Worship Leader: Bill Graham
Children’s Choir: Kristen Czarnecki
Organist: Sharon Williams
Greeters: The Sparks Family
Acolyte: Jack Kovicak

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Worship Leader: Joe Tanner

Reader: Deb Dalrymple

Acolyte: Sienna Graham

Greeters: Cheryl and Hank Fehlman

Welcome Center: 9:40-10:00 – TBD

Hospitality: No Table – Merry Christmas!

Hall Monitor: Richard VanSchaick

Nursery: Katie Sparks

Tech Team: Roger Robinson

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

Ushers: 10:00 – Frank Deibert, Charlie Campbell, Murray Thompson, Rich Gruebel, and Ken McCoy.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in loving memory of our daughter Tina and grandson Danny given by Maryann & Wayne 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.