

*Welcome to
St. Peter's Pikeland
United Church of Christ*

1193 Clover Mill Road
Chester Springs, Pennsylvania 19425
610.933.6419



*Candlelight Service
of Lessons and
Carols*

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020
9:00 p.m.

*Lights will be dimmed for singing "Silent Night."
Those at home are encouraged to have a candle ready to light.*

PRELUDE

"Away In a Manger"

arr Raney

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to God, all the earth.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

This light shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
and Prince of Peace.

For unto us a child is born, whose peace is everlasting.

CAROL

"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!**

**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!**

**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!**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

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. 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. 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.

ARIA "Rejoice greatly, ye daughters of Zion" from *Messiah*
Handel

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9
The peace of Christ foretold

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

ARIA "Domine Deus" from *Gloria* Vivaldi

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38
The birth of Jesus foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is

with you. But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

DUET

"Ave Maria"

Schubert

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

"O Holy Night"

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds and the angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood

before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

DUET "Evening Prayer" from *Hänsel und Gretel* Humperdinck

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found

him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL "Once In Royal David's City"

CAROL “Silent 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.**

BENEDICTION

May the Spirit of Christmas be yours, to rejoice in and to share, calling us together in a spirit of peace and goodwill.

Amen.

CAROL

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Here ends the service.

ALL: Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr J.M. Martin

*Thank you to tonight’s Cantors:
Rachel Sigman and Francesca Aguado.*

Kat Bowman, Music Director
Rev. Douglas Hanson, Liturgist

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1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs PA 19425
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Merry Christmas from St. Peter's Pikeland UCC

It is our sincere hope that you enjoy this Christmas week with your loved ones and families the best that you can, whatever that may look like this year. We wish you warmth and safety within the love of God, given to us through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.



Church Staff

Rev. Doug Hanson, *Pastor*
Kat Bowman, *Music Director and Organist*
Annamae Moore, *Worship Coordinator*
Jill Cook, *Church Secretary*
Deborah Wetty, *Nursery Attendant*
Debbie Wolk, *Bookkeeper*
Wayne Freese, *Cemetery Manager*

