

Under Wraps

THE GIFT WE NEVER EXPECTED

Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Service with Communion and Candlelight

December 24, 2018

7:00 PM

We are glad to worship with you tonight for a relaxed and reverent service telling the story of Jesus' birth with familiar verses and carols. We've included the lyrics but you can also sing them in parts using our hymnal.

Please stand as you are able at the asterisks*.

OUR ORGANIST PLAYS MUSIC FOR US AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Noël No. 10 – Full Organ and Duos

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

“When God was born at Christmas in the land of Judaea, that solemn day was bathed in joy.

There was no man, great or small, who did not bring his present

And did not offer ceaselessly all his wealth and riches.”

— Provençal Christmas Carol

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST COMES IN

Kate Neikirk, Tally Vaughan

PASTOR MIKE WELCOMES US

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1, 3

UMH No. 234

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; O 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

John 1:1-5

Marsha Germek

Hint: “The Word” is simply a code word for Jesus.

WE LISTEN TO OUR CHOIR

Here Comes the Light

Joseph M. Martin

Bethany United Methodist Church

Mike Derflinger, Pastor

1860 Hayes Road • PO Box 527 • Gloucester Point VA 23062

Phone: 804.642.2110 • Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Email: bethanyumc3@verizon.net; Website: www.bethanyumc-gp.org

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2: 1-6
Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem

Pastor Mike

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem, vv. 1,3

UMH No. 230

*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!*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his 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.*

THE CHRIST CANDLE

Kevin, Kathy, Shelby and Samantha Jacobs
Luke 2:7, 9-14 Jesus is Born and Angels Appear

***WE STAND TOGETHER**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given!

God has brought light into every darkness.

The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God!

Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!

We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.

We light the Candle of Christ. Witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on Earth peace among those He favors.

***CAROL**

Angels We Have Heard on High, vv.1,4

UMH No. 238

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2: 15-21

Marsha Germek

OUR CHILDREN SING

Go and Tell with Joy to the World!

WE PRAY THIS PRAYER, THEN GIVE OUR OFFERING TO JESUS

Thank you, God, for giving us your Son Jesus through Mary; and thank you Jesus for showing us God's heart and ways. Thank you for our families, the church, and friends who guide us. We bring our gifts tonight because, well, this is *your* birthday; and we pray our gifts will help others know and trust your love and salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Chorale Prelude on "Silent Night"
Celebrating the 200th anniversary of UMH No. 239

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

PASTOR MIKE'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION**WE PRAY OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, in this time of great excitement and happiness, we praise you that in the fullness of time you sent us your Son to save us from our sins and from ourselves and to bring us your joy. How easy it is in this wonderful life you've given us to see the holiday lights but miss the True Light. As we come to Your table, draw us closer to you and renew our spirits.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

Please come to one of the stations to receive the bread and the cup.

If you would like to receive in your pew, please inform one of our Ushers.

Gifts of money left at the altar are designated to assist people in crisis in our church family and our community through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Music during Communion

Footprints in the Snow and *The Snow is Dancing* Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Transcribed for organ by Rudy Shackelford

***CAROL**

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH No. 239

We light our candles, sing stanza 1, and leave with peace and joy.
Please leave your candles in the pew.

*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.*

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and invite you to worship with us on
Sunday, December 30th at our 8:30am or 11:00am services.
The church office will reopen Thursday, December 27th from 9a.m. to 3p.m.