

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 31, 2017

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude “Chorale from Cantata No. 147” Bach
 Amy Shimmin, flute and Eileen Larkin, piano

Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church

* A Time of Greeting

Steeple Bell

Call to Worship

All God's people -

Come and worship!

Shepherds, Magi, angels, saints, and sinners -

Come and worship! Come and worship!

All who need a Savior, all in need of comfort,

all who look for hope, all who long for joy -

Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

*Hymn #143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, God of mercy, for how we receive your gift of Christmas. We have been quick to end the celebration, even relieved that it's over. We have packed away the decorations and the joy and turn back to our life's routine as if nothing had happened. We are more comfortable leaving Jesus in the manger than following him as a Lord who might challenge or change us. We've sung your good news in carols, but stifle our witness when the music stops. Forgive us, O God, and keep room open in our hearts for you. Grateful for your mercy that knows no particular season, hear our prayers...

(silent prayers)

Assurance of Pardon

***Response Hymn #121 v.4**

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, as your Word became flesh and dwelled among us, so may the word of the scriptures be borne out in our lives. In the way of Jesus, Amen.

First Scripture Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

Page: NT 189

A Scripture Conversation

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

Page: NT 59

Sermon

“The Christmas Comma”

***Hymn #145** “What Child Is This”

***Affirmation of Faith**

It is not over, this birthing.

There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.

When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God,

that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,

that’s just the time that God will be born

in a place we can’t imagine and won’t believe.

Those who wait for God

watch with their hearts and not their eyes,

listening, always listening,

for angel words.

*Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “Away in a Manger”

Michael Larkin

Amy Shimmin, flute and Eileen Larkin, piano

***Response (#144 v.4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, we do give you our hearts, our lives, our all. We find in your love the inspiration for our own. We find in your blessings the call to give. We find in your gift of a Savior, our cause for hope and our path to follow. For all of this we thank you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn #132** "Good Christians, All, Rejoice"

***Charge and Benediction**

Steeple Bell

Organ Postlude

"Gavotte"

George Frideric Handel

Amy Shimmin, flute and Eileen Larkin, piano

You may recycle your bulletins in the basket at the back of the Meeting House.

Thank you for serving today:

Worship Leader: Beverly Stoudt

Ushers: Salina Brett

Nursery: Molly Cooney & Molly Shaw

Sunday School: Ron & Susan Studd

Fellowship Hour: Noon Circle

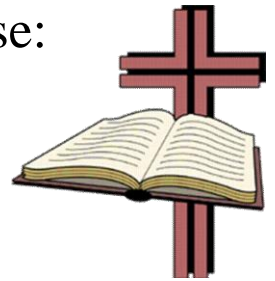
Counters: Jo Viola & Lyn Briggs

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Marjorie A. Montgomery Frederick Burns Hill, Jr.

1900-1972

1913-1993



DECEMBER SOCK DRIVE

Please consider donating socks during the month of December. We need socks for both men and women. White sport socks are the best but we will accept anything you would like to donate. Gently worn socks are also acceptable. Each Sunday the socks will be delivered to Friendship House and they will distribute them to the individuals who come to the Sunday breakfasts and also on Code Purple days and night. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

HELP KEEP SEAFARERS WARM

The Seamen Center of Wilmington is always in need of men's warm winter clothing (**coats, sweatshirts, pants, gloves and hats.**) Donations can be left in the second floor craft room of the CE Building. Questions, call Ellie Gerhart at 328-0908.

BIBLE STUDY – A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Our midweek Wednesday 1:00 pm Bible Study has been an engaging and inspiring experience this fall, as we've looked at the journeys of Biblical characters, and how their experiences speak to our own.

The journey continues in 2018, beginning this Wednesday January 3. Make it your New Year's resolution to join us!

A HOME FOR POINSETTIAS

We are so grateful for the generous donations of the poinsettias that filled our Meeting House with such beauty for Christmas. If you donated, please take your poinsettia with you. You could certainly share it with one of our homebound members – a wonderful reason to visit and remind them of their continued connection to their church family!

LAST DAY FOR THE SURVEY

There's still time! If you haven't yet completed the Congregational Survey for the Mission Study, **TODAY IS THE DAY!**

Here's the link ---- <https://goo.gl/xeCz8B>

Enter it into your web browser and you will be guided, step by step. This is important information about the demographics of who we are as a congregation, how we feel about what we offer, what we sense are our strengths and challenges, and the qualities and skills we feel best suit us in our next pastor. And an important part of that "we" is YOU.

Your Mission Study team will be compiling this feedback in January to produce a Mission Study document, which, once approved by Session and Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, will be an invaluable tool for the Pastor Nominating Committee, and for searching pastors wondering who we are.

So please – use your voice to be a part of this important first step in our pastoral search! Do it today!

As always, if you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Mission Study Committee: Kelly Koczak McCurdy, Bruce Raker, Gail Seitz, Amy Selheimer, Corky Viola, Jim Whisman, and Jenny Warren – we are happy to help shed light on this important step in our search for a new pastor.

Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 suzieflook@hotmail.com or Fran Gingher, silverfran@aol.com

Continuing Care Homes:

Jean Swanson

Sunrise - Apt. 238
1555 W Horizon Ridge Pkwy
Henderson, NV 89012
(302) 824-8030 (cell)

Barbara Beaumont

The Watermark at Logan Sq
Rehabilitation Center
2 Franklin Town Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 575-9697

Dot Campbell

The Summit
5850 Limestone Rd.
Hockessin, DE 19707
(302) 635-2059

William Wilson

Brandywine Nursing Ctr.
505 Greenbank Road, Rm C6B
Wilmington, DE 19808

Vic Clark

Delaware Veterans Home
100 Veterans Blvd,
Rm 1260-2
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 424-8565

Sydney Wilson

255 Possom Park Road
Apt. 2205
Newark, DE 19711
(302) 456-1606

Anita Johnson

726 Loveville Road
Healthcare Ctr Rm 2026A
Hockessin, DE 19707

At Home:

Esther Lindell

1 Shaw Alley
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 324-8889

Barbara Quillen

Cokesbury HealthCare
726 Loveville Road
Hockessin, DE 19707

Mary Pratt

113 E. Main St., Unit 311
Newark, DE 19711
(302) 328-7273

Jason Campbell

522 Brighton Road
Wilmington, DE 19809

This Week's Schedule

SUNDAY	12/31		NEW YEAR'S EVE
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School
		11:30am	Fellowship Hour
			- All are Welcome
		12:00pm	Colonial Chimers
Monday	1/1		NEW YEAR'S DAY
			Office Closed
Tuesday	1/2		Office Closed
Wednesday	1/3	1:00pm	Bible Study
		7:30pm	Choir
Thursday	1/4	7:30pm	Celebration Ringers
Friday	1/5		Brownies Due
Saturday	1/6	8-9am	Tai Chi
		9:30am	Emmanuel Dining Room Prep
SUNDAY	1/7		BAPTISM OF THE LORD
		10:30am	Worship – Lord's Supper
			& Sunday School
		11:30am	Fellowship Hour
			- All are Welcome