



## MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM | 4th Sunday of Advent

*Christmas Pageant*

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" Lynn Arthur Koch

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

***We wait as people of God's promise.***

The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

***We listen as people of God's promise.***

Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

***We follow as people of God's promise.***

This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

#### \*PRAYER OF CENTERING

***God of the impossible and unlikely; God of pregnant old women and virgins, you turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels. Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen***

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Gregg & Sue Rhodes, Josie & Anthony Lordi

\*OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 5,6,7) UMH 211++

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "Once Upon a Manger: A Paper Bag Pageant" by Tracy Wells

ANTHEM "The Angel Carol" Arr. Audrey Snyder

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY "De Tierra Lejana Venimos (From a Distant Home)" ISLA DEL ENCANTO, Trad. Puerto Rican carol

\*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 95

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Almighty God, we lift up our gifts so that people who are bowed down by life's burdens may be lifted up to new hope. May there be justice for the oppressed and food for the hungry; freedom for the enslaved and wholeness for the broken, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\*CLOSING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1-4) UMH 234++

#### \*BENEDICTION

For all that has been...***Thanks!***  
For all that will be...***Yes!***

**\*SENDING FORTH**

Go, now, in the blessing of God’s promise and in the assurance that our expectant joy will find its fulfillment in the God who was, and is, and is to come, for Lo, He is with us always! Amen.

**POSTLUDE** “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” Johann Schop,  
harm. J. S. Bach

**GREETER** | Maryann Schneider **LITURGIST** | Jan Lucciola  
**FLOWERS** | Sign Up in Fellowship Hall **FELLOWSHIP** | Liz Steen

**PRAYER LIST** Family of Barbara Pinto, Family of Cindy Stine, John Rodriguez, Cath Kanen, Michele Burrell, Lori Rothman, Richard Holt, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Camilla, Armando Avila, Gene Gillen, Jay Norejko, Marlene Horan, Jonathan Clements, Bobbie Myer, Arlene Moglia, Michael Gilmore, The Whateley Family, Marie Fornoff, Agnes Halsey, Martha Peldunas, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Ali Fitzgerald, Roger Fitzgerald, Debbie Conklin, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Rose Belcastro, Barbara Urban, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Bill Davis, Jim Lordi, Christine Pasquarosa, Patty Reynolds, Casey Peguero, Linda Klee, Dianne Siconolfi



**Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 pm – Family Service**  
**7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship with Choir & Bells**  
**Sunday, December 29th**  
**10:00 am— A Service of Lessons & Carols**

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal  
TFWS: The Faith We Sing ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

**IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILD CARE** (IN COMMUNITY RM/NURSERY AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

**CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 8:30AM SANCTUARY**

**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 11:30AM SANCTUARY**

**CRAFTY LADIES: WILL RESUME IN SPRING**

**MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: [bit.ly/MUMCZoom](https://bit.ly/MUMCZoom)**

**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK Dec. 23rd—Jan. 1st**

- **Tuesday, Jan. 7th 6:30 PM** Trustees Meeting (Conference Rm)
- **Friday, Jan. 10th 6:00-8:00PM** Pizza and Game Night (RSVP to Office)
- **Friday, Jan. 17th 6:00 PM** Food Pantry @ Good Shepherd
- **Tuesday, Jan. 21st 6:30 PM** Finance Meeting (H)
- **Tuesday, Jan 28th 6:30 PM** Church Council (H)

**On Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025, you are invited to celebrate a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph during the 10 a.m. service. We will remember the Magi as we bring our gifts to the altar. DIAPERS SIZE 4 AND UP are especially needed as well as wipes, diaper rash cream. gas drops, sleepers, nail clippers and socks. All donations will be delivered to Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!**

**WE WELCOME ALL!**  
Visiting with us today? Please fill out a Visitor Card found in our pews, thank you!  
Our live church worship services are made available to persons viewing through the link: [www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC](https://www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC).  
If you would like to be on our email list, please contact the office at [www.milfordmethodists@gmail.com](mailto:www.milfordmethodists@gmail.com) or (570) 296-6124.

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