

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

December 25, 2011 **11:00 A.M.**

Morning Worship Broadcast over WGOS-AM 1070

CHRISTMAS DAY

GATHERING

WE MEDITATE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Prelude *Selected Carols* Mr. Brian Vannoy
arr. Fischer

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Chiming of the Hour

WE CELEBRATE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

*Christmas Day Acclamation Dr. Ivan Peden

Minister: Christ is born; give him glory!

**People: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

Minister: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

People: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

After exchanging signs of peace with one another, the congregation sings:

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Welcome, and Parish Notes

Lighting of the Christ Candle Mitchel & Elaine Rabon

Sung Response:

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!

A Medley of Christmas Carols Dr. Danny Frye

Please remain seated as Dr. Frye leads us in a selection of our favorite carols.

Time with our Children Reverend Lynda Hepler

All sing the first verse of *Away In A Manger* as the children gather in the Chancel area:

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

When the children return to their seats, all sing the third verse:

**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.**

WE PRAY ON CHRISTMAS DAY

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession for Christmas Day Reverend Peggy Finch

Minister: Let us pray:

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day
in the newborn Child, Savior of the world.

**People: We celebrate Christ's birth;
for in him you come to be close to us,
that we may be close to you.**

Minister: Especially, we give thanks
for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
and all he means to us,
for prospects of peace in the world,
for confidence in your almighty love,
for those who generously give,
for those who graciously receive,
for the Church's nurturing us in the faith.

**People: God of all mercy, as you have come in Jesus Christ to be our
guest, inspire our hearts to a hospitality
that welcomes all your children in his name.**

Minister: Especially we pray for those who have not heard your good news,
for the sick and suffering,
for those who know no laughter, only tears,
for those who govern and rule,
for those enslaved by tyranny,
for prisoners of addiction or abuse,
for the Church as a refuge for the needy.

People: All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**ALL: 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.**

WE GIVE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The Offering

Offertory *A Joyous Change on 'God Rest You Merry'* Andrews

*"What Can I Give Him?"

"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 Reverend Rodney Denton

WE HEAR ON CHRISTMAS DAY

*Hymn of Preparation, UMH No. 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1, 2, 3, & 6)
J.F. Wade/ADESTE FIDELES

*Gospel Lesson John 1:1-14 Reverend Finch

Minister: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Christmas Day Message *God's Dream Realized* Dr. Peden

WE RESPOND ON CHRISTMAS DAY

*Hymn of Response, UMH No. 251 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
Afro-American Spiritual/GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

During the singing of this hymn, you are invited to go forward to kneel at the
Communion Rail and offer silent prayers of celebration and dedication on this
Christmas Day.

*Benediction Dr. Peden

*Postlude Postlude On '*Adeste Fideles*' Thiman

*Please stand, as you are able.

+Please pass the registration pads at this time

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher if you need one. **Chief Usher:** Gerry Crowder **Leaders:** Don Clinard, Carey Eanes, Zeb Hanner, J. H. Williams, Charles Wade **Today's Ushers:** Debbie & William Hinkle, Roger Bryant, Bill Mills, Mark Leonard. **Today's Greeters:** Griff Usher, Karen Green, Wayne Kearns, Barbara Price, Charles Wade.

HEARING DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Participating in today's service:

The Reverend Doctor Ivan Peden, Senior Minister
The Reverend Rodney W. Denton, Associate Minister
The Reverend Lynda C. Hepler, Minister of Children and Families
Dr. Danny Frye, Music Director
Mr. Brian Vannoy, Organist
Tara Oldaker, Acolyte
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchel Rabon, Lighting The Christ Candle

The Season of Christmas Begins....

Our word "Christmas" comes from the Old English "*Christes Maesse*" or Christ's Mass. The season begins, of course, with Christmas Day and lasts until the twelfth night, the eve of the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. The liturgical color for Christmas is white, symbolic of purity and joy.

Altar and Arts Committee