

# December 30, 2018

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

### GOD'S PEOPLE PREPARE FOR THE WORD

*As we gather, some of our number have found it helpful to begin worship with a time of group singing and praise a few moments prior to worship each week. If you choose not to participate in the singing and would prefer to visit or make personal connections at this time, please use the Assembly Room for these purposes. We hope that this extended time brings an opportunity to embrace the Lord in worship.*

Gathering Music: (see screen)

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Words of Welcome and Announcements  
Our Friendship in Christ

\*Call to Worship: *(Responsive)*

We who used to be at a distance have been brought together by Jesus, who has broken down the barriers that once kept us apart. Christ has erased the hostility among us and has brought us the good news of peace. Let us pray:

**At the brink of a New Year we come into your house with confidence that our presence here will bring new vigor to our work, will bring new love to our homes, will bring new satisfaction to our pleasures, will bring new commitment to your cause, and will bring new concern for the welfare of your world. Let us worship God!**

\*Hymn of Praise: Hymn #184

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

The Prayer of Confession: *(Unison)*

**Try as we might, we can't avoid doing wrong. We forget your teachings. We make excuses. We blame others. We forget our solemn promises.**

*(a time for silent confession)*

**Forgive us, we pray. Cleanse us by your grace and bathe us in your love. Amen.**

The Assurance of Pardon: *(Responsive)*

Jesus Christ was sent by our loving God to live for us and then to die for us, so that through him we might be forgiven our sins.

**This truth is revealed in God's word and is received by faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Congregational Response: (see screen)

*While We Are Waiting, Come!*

### GOD'S PEOPLE RECEIVE THE WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-14

(NIV)

This is the Word of the Lord;  
**Thanks be to God!**

The Children's Sermon

*Young children may worship with their families or may go to the Infant-Toddler Room behind the sanctuary. Children age 3 – 1st grade may be dismissed to the Children's Room at this time.*

The New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

(NIV)

This is the Word of the Lord;  
**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Emmanuel – God is with Us!*

### **GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

\*Hymn of Reflection: (see screen)

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

The Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Hear us, Lord God, as we affirm our faith for the coming year.

**We will rejoice in seeing progress, and we will be active in bringing about constructive change.**

Do not say, 'Why were the former days better than these?' for it is not from wisdom that you ask this. – Ecclesiastes 7:10

**We will proudly preserve noble traditions and hold strongly to truth that never changes.**

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine. – Ephesians 4:14

**We will accept with joy God's forgiveness and be free from nagging guilt.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 5:1

**We will leave behind the hurts, disappointments, and burdens of the past, and move ahead to a brighter future.**

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the...prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

– *Philippians 3:13*

**We will regard each hour as a sacred trust and each day as a divine gift, to be used with reverence and delight.**

Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart. – Psalm 90:12

**We will with gratitude accept the good things that come in the year ahead, acknowledging their source.**

Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving. – 1 Timothy 4:4

**We will cope courageously with the difficulties that will certainly come, knowing that we are not alone.**

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. – Deuteronomy 31:8

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings  
The Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

\*Congregational Response: Hymn #180, v. 3

*What Child is This?*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn of Dedication: Hymn #182

*How Great Our Joy!*

\*Charge & Benediction

Postlude

***\*Please stand, if able.***

### **WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY**

**Leading in Worship:** Kristen Knouff

**Toddler Room:** Dani Anderson, Michele Kish

**Childcare:** Jamie & Maddy Chlystek

**Greeters:**

### **WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY 6**

**Leading in Worship:**

**Toddler Room:** Linda Piper

**Childcare:** Carly Barnes, Rachael Phelps

**Greeters:** John McConnell, Mollie Sam, Campbell Simcox

### **Opportunities for the Week of December 30<sup>th</sup>**

Monday	12/31	9:00 am	Exercise
Tuesday	1/1		Happy New Year – Office Closed
Wednesday	1/2	9:00 am	Exercise
Thursday	1/3	6:30 pm	Steering Committee
Sunday	1/6	9:30 am	Faith Builders
		11:00 am	Worship – Epiphany, Communion

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Printed copies of previous sermons are available on the shelves in the back of the sanctuary and on the web at: [www.chup.org](http://www.chup.org) . Each worship service is also recorded on audio CD. In addition to being on the church website, all of Pastor Dave's sermons are posted on his blog at [www.castyournet.wordpress.com](http://www.castyournet.wordpress.com).**

- 1. Pastor Dave will be on vacation** from December 27- January 5. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please call the Rev. Bill Gracey 412-928-0891 or 412-977-7499.
- 2. Next Sunday after worship** we will Un-Decorate the Sanctuary. Please consider staying to help. Please speak with Cheri Mack for details.
- 3. Ladies:** please join us on Tuesdays beginning January 8th as we continue our video study "Unshakable Hope". Each lesson is independent, so don't worry if you haven't come before. You are welcome any Tuesday at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea and conversation. Bring a friend!
- 4. What was the first book of the New Testament to be written?** It wasn't one of the Gospels – it was, in all probability, one of the letters of Paul. On January 13, 2019, there will be a **new Adult Faithbuilders group** forming in order to learn from and discuss these earliest documents of our faith. We'll use a book entitled *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians* (books will be provided) and gather at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor (behind the sanctuary) beginning on January 13. See Ron Gielarowski for more information.
- 5. On Sunday, 12/23** our congregation prayed with Bill and Fay Reynolds as they prepared to make the move to their new home in South Carolina. Now, we can turn those prayers into action as we seek to help the Reynolds' take this step by cleaning out their home. **The Deacons are mobilizing a crew** to go into their Norwalk Street home in early January. We will remove any items that Bill and Fay could not take with them and re-purpose what we can. If you are interested and able to help, please see Erin Butti (or call the church office) to make sure you're signed up. In addition, if you know anyone who needs some household items please contact the Church office and we'll start a list. Thanks!
- 6. Bill & Fay Reynolds have a new address!** 203 Old Chapin Rd, Apt 129, Lexington, SC 29072. Their new phone number is: 717-451-8918.

## My Daily Time with God This Week December 30<sup>th</sup> – January 6<sup>th</sup>

One of the ways that we can best remember who we are, and who God calls us to be, is to spend time in His presence. In 2018, we will follow the devotional schedule published by *The Upper Room*. To receive devotions in your e-mail each day, visit <http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/email/>. May God bless you as you seek Him!

**God's Promise:** "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

*(2 Chronicles 7:14)*

**Psalm for the week:** Psalm 148 (*Read this through prayerfully each day. As you do so, you will concentrate less on yourself and more on your Lord.*)

### Daily Scripture Readings:

<b>Monday</b>	Acts 2:41-47	<b>Friday</b>	Jeremiah 31:12-14
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 67:1-7	<b>Saturday</b>	Romans 10:12-18
<b>Wednesday</b>	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	<b>Sunday</b>	Philippians 4:10-13
<b>Thursday</b>	Luke 19:1-10		

### Speaking with your Creator:

- about your own life
- about those in our family of faith

--**members** – Schrenker Family, John Fullwood, Ray Schaffer, Eleanor Arlet, Florence Hall, Alice Schnellbach, Tina Dame, Ed Kososki, Maryanne Richardson, Cheryl Reed, Joey Szumigalski & family, Justin & Eric Barth, Joe Connor, the homebound and those in caring facilities.

--**friends & relatives** – Dan Barry, John Schneider, Bill Gracey, Ellie Musolino, Lisa & Nicholas Daugherty, Lorraine Barth, Eadie Children, Betty Hartlep, Krieger family, Mark Mattern, Elijah Todd.

--**about our world** – Friends & Family in the Armed Forces, World peace, the Mbenjere Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, members of the church in South Sudan, Veterans & disabled, poor & needy, those persecuted and martyred for their faith. (*If you would like to include someone in your prayers, please fill out an "I Wish" card from the pews.*)

**Listening to your Creator:** -a time of silence

**Going out into your world:** -remembering that God sends you to the people he loves.

**Church Prayer Families:** Lindsay Frick, Dolly Petagno

**Open Door Prayer Family:** Lydia's Family

**Preschool Prayer Family:** Maisie's Family