



COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF DURHAM
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Multigenerational Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2016, 4pm

Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* composed by Gustav Holst ~ Gwyneth Crossman, clarinet

Introit *The Little Drummer Boy* by Simeone, Onorati, and Davis ~ Alleluia Choir

Welcome ~ The Rev. Dr. Mary E. Westfall

Call to Worship ~ Anna Haight

LEADER: It's Christmas Eve and time is standing still for a moment. It is the time, maybe the only time of the year, when here and now drift away and we fall under the spell of story-time.

ALL: **Tonight we are both here, AND on a lonely hillside outside of Bethlehem.**

LEADER: Tonight, we are with each other, friends and family, returning students and relatives from far away, AND we are also with the Magi, on a journey and such a hard time for journey.

ALL: **Tonight we sit quiet and listen through the music and words of children, through angels we hear the news, familiar and for the first time.**

LEADER: Tonight, like every night, is new, a never happening before moment in onrushing time, AND yet, we have been here before, done this before, told this story before, and heard it before. There is a way that the story we tell tonight is always happening: birth and death and taxes, weary outsiders with no place to stay, babies born, sudden signs of grace and glory and surprising generosity.

ALL: **The past and the present are closely woven tonight, and we sense the presence of our own eternal selves, our souls perhaps, with our everyday selves tonight.**

LEADER: And when, during this evening, we pass a visible sign of grace, a passing of peace, from hand to hand, we will see the radiance and beauty of one another, as seen through the eyes of a timeless love.

ALL: **Come, it is Christmas Eve, let us worship together.**

~ adapted from the Rev. Tom Schade

Processing with the Christ Candle *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adams ~ Madeleine Triff, violin

Passing of the Peace All are invited to greet those near them sharing the peace and love of God.

* Hymn #154 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Offering Prayer:

Offertory *O Come All Ye Faithful* by John Frances Wade ~ Lulu Upham, violin

Doxology (Hymnal #780)

Prayer of Dedication

A Christmas Pageant

Based on the "Tobias' Story," written by Carolyn Peters' and on Rev. Theresa Cho's "No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Pageant." Adapted by Coleman Moore and Kristin Forselius. With traditional Christmas music performed by Madeleine Triff (violin), Gwyneth Crossman (clarinet), Mia Hricz (guitar), Evy Ashburner (harp), and Lulu Upham (violin). Narrated by Coleman Moore, with help from members of our congregation.

* Closing Hymn #132 *Joy to the World!* ~ Lisa Taylor, pianist

Benediction

Postlude ~ Lisa Taylor, pianist

(* Congregation may stand.)

✠ *Go in Peace and in the Light of God's Love.* ✠

Greeters: Liam Ashburner, Emerson Moore, Maddie Marshall, Hayden Marshall

Our nursery/childcare room is open for your use, but is unstaffed today. If your little one becomes restless during the worship service, you are welcome to use this space located by our Sunday school rooms, one level down.



Upcoming Events

Dover Friendly Kitchen: Please join your Church members and friends at The Dover Friendly Kitchen on Thursday, December 29th at 4:30 pm at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dover. We will be serving lasagna, salad, and desserts. Let's give our neighbors a lovely end of the year dinner filled with warm hospitality and filling food. We need volunteers and food items. The sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall. Food may also be dropped off by 3pm in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen on the 29th. Donations of winter coats, hats, and gloves are also welcome. There is a basket just outside the church office where donations may be left. If there are any questions, please contact: Bryn Burns at 603.743.1813 or at brynb07@comcast.net.

Men's Fellowship Group: Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:00am in the church library. The group next meets on Thurs., Jan. 5th. All men of the community are welcome to come and discuss spiritual and other topics of interest.

There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 8, from 4- 6 pm in Fellowship Hall to plan church activities in the wake of the presidential election and key appointments by the President-Elect. At a prior meeting on November 27, 50 people shared their concerns and ideas. Much of the January 8 meeting will be devoted to four themes that emerged on November 27: Climate Change and the Environment; Immigrants and Refugees; Fostering Dialogue; and Collective Action. Please join other Community Church members and friends to consider how we, as people of faith, should respond individually and collectively in a way that affirms our values of love, compassion, social justice, and environmental stewardship. Child care will be available. An RSVP would be helpful (particularly if you would like child care), but is not required. To RSVP, receive a summary and transcript of the November 27 meeting, or get more information, please contact Chuck Hotchkiss at chuckhotchkiss@gmail.com or 603-868-1028.

Families First: The next meal we will provide will be on Mon., January 9th. The menu will be: Spaghetti and meatballs, rolls, garden salad, milk, fruit, and cookies or bars. We ask for contributions in each category to serve ten. The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Please drop off food by 3:00 pm on January 9th. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Responding to Syrian Refugee Crisis: To respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the civil war in Syria, please go to www.ucc.org/refugees_index, or www.razoo.com/team/Racing-For-Syrian-Refugees.

Church Office & ECHO Thrift Shop Closure: In recognition of the season, the Church Office and Thrift Shop will be closed during the Christmas week, December 23rd-January 2nd, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd. Blessings to all from your church staff and volunteers!



Community Church of Durham, United Church of Christ
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Rev. Dr. Mary E. Westfall, Minister ~ Kristin Forselius, Education Coordinator
David Ervin, Music Director ~ Catherine York, Organist