

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DURHAM, UCC

Christmas Eve Service of Light

December 24, 2016, 9:00 pm

Enter to Worship

Prelude “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” (*Awake, the voice is calling us*) by J.S. Bach

~ Catherine York, Organist

Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who dwelt in darkness, on them has light shined.

People: In the dark of this night, in the mystery of this season, we lean toward the light, we long for the Light.

Choir: (*sung*) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here, until the child of God appear.

Leader: Even as God spoke to bring forth light at the dawn of creation, spinning galaxies with glowing stars, casting the light that brings forth life, so again will God shatter the darkness filling the world, this place, our hearts with the dazzling light of love.

People: For unto as a child is born, to us God’s gift of love is given, the light that illumines all things.

All: (*sung*) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

* **Hymn:** #116 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 2,6, 7*

Moment for Centering and Stillness

Shine: A New Christmas Cantata by David Ervin

~ Spoken text by Pastor Mary Westfall

~ Videography by Andy Dolph

~ Soloists: Alana Ervin, Doria Bramante, Lorna Ellis, and Ann Hotchkiss

~ Piano: Catherine York

~ Clarinet: Nat Balch

~ Soprano sax, tenor sax and djembe: Marc LaForce

~ Trumpet: Alan Nasberg

~ NH Refugee Photos by Becky Field, *used with permission*

I Sim Shalom Adoni

~ featuring Marc LaForce on soprano sax

II Lament

~ featuring Nat Balch on clarinet

III A Single Candle

~ featuring Alana Ervin and Doria Bramante

IV O Come, O Come Emmanuel

~ featuring Nat Balch on clarinet

V Snow

~ featuring Lorna Ellis and Ann Hotchkiss

VI Have You Not Heard

VII Shine

A Celebration of the Light: Congregational Carols

#144 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, verses 1 & 3*

#135 *O Come, All You Faithful, verse 1*

#125 *Angels We Have Heard on High, verse 1*

#154 *Go Tell It on the Mountain, verses 1 & 2*

#164 *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

Pastoral Words

* **Hymn** #132 *Joy to the World!*

Sending Forth

Musical Response “Shine”

Postlude Voluntary #10 in D Major by John Alcock

~ Catherine York, Organist

** The congregation may stand*

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

This year's Christmas Eve offering, being collected at the doors as you leave, is dedicated to Dover Friendly Kitchen, and Syrian Refugee Relief.

Dover Friendly Kitchen – The Dover Friendly Kitchen is a ministry of the Dover Cooperative Ministries. The Friendly Kitchen opens its doors and delicious cuisine to everyone who needs a good meal and some good companionship. The Friendly Kitchen is open every Tuesday and Thursday, and is located in the Hall of St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Different faith communities take charge each day to make and serve the meal.

Syrian Refugee Relief – Assistance in providing resources to Syrian refugees who have fled their homes and are waiting in camps in Europe for help in resettlement. The assistance needed is in the form of donations to meet the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter and education.

Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas. Peace be with you!

Greeters this evening are Beth Cilley, Gary Cilley, Henry Smith, and Doug Terrill.

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.

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.

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!

Church Office & ECHO Thrift Shop Closure: In recognition of the season, the Church Office and ECHO 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!





*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in deep darkness on them light has shined.*

Isaiah 9: 2

CHRISTMAS EVE 2016

9:00 P.M.

The Rev. Dr. Mary E. Westfall, Minister David Ervin, Music Director
Catherine York, Organist

Community Church of Durham, United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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