



*P God of glory, God of peace,*

**C we confess that we have shunned the light that reveals the truth about us. We cling to worldly things rather than sharing the gifts of this earth. We trust ourselves above all. Save your people, O God; sustain the rivers and trees that sing your praise; and free us to live boldly in the light and truth of Jesus, our Savior. Amen**

*P The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in + Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope and joy.*

**C Amen**

## **GATHERING**

\* ENTRANCE HYMN "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

\* GREETING

*P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**C And also with you.**

\* KYRIE

*P Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*P Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*P Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

"Silent Night" (vs. 3)

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of re-deeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*P Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*P Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*P Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

\* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (**sung**)

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**spoken in unison**)

P *Let us pray...*

C **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**WORD**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 63:7-9

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148

Ps. – Intoned by Choir    Response – **Congregation** (below)

*O come, let us a – dore him, O come, let us a – dore him, O come, let us a – dore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**6who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**

7Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**8fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

9mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**10wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

11sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**12young men and maidens, old and young together. R**

13Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**14The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah! R**

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from Hebrews 2:10-18

### THE LESSON READS:

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." <sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

\* THE VERSE "Joy to the World" (vs. 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.

\* GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

*P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.*

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

\* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*P Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the good creation, and the needs of all.*

*A brief silence.*

*P O God, strengthen your church in times of testing and trial, and give courage and vision to bishops, pastors, lay leaders, teachers, and all who minister in your name. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, save all species in danger of extinction because of human neglect and greed. Restore your creation from the smallest cell to the shining stars, that the universe may praise your name. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, in your love and compassion carry the children of the world to safety. Protect the young and vulnerable in every nation (especially), and console the families of children lost to war and violence. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P O God, have mercy on those who cry out to you in any distress. We lift to you our sisters and brothers who are sick, grieving, troubled, hungry, cold, in pain, or without joy (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Kevin Reynolds, Mary Martha Gilbert, Avonel and Rick Waller, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Larry Jones, Chuck McNaught, Jesse Kint, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Norman Gloss, Jr., Pastor Esborn, Ruth Crist and family of Sam Zeiders). Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P O God, make this congregation a sanctuary of acceptance for all, that together we may share your dream of peace. Bless those gathered here, those who are absent, and those we have yet to welcome. Hear us, O God.*

**C Your mercy is great.**

*P Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus the Christ, our brother and Savior.*

**C Amen**

\* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

*P The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C And also with you.**

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

M. L. Williams

*[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].*

ANTHEM

- \* SUNG OFFERTORY "The First Noel" (verse 1)  
 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
 in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
- \* OFFERING PRAYER  
*P Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*  
**C Amen**

## MEAL

- \* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)  
*P Let us give thanks to the Lord.*  
**C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.**  
*P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.*  
**C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.**  
*P Let us come to his table with joy,*  
**C for we come as God's invited guests!**
- \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER  

*P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.*

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] **(all)**

**C 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 and ever. Amen**

\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come, eat, and live.*

DISTRIBUTION

*["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].*

\* COMMUNION BLESSING

*P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C Amen**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*P Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.*

**C Amen**

**SENDING**

\* BLESSING

*P The holy Three, holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and + grant you peace.*

**C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)**

\* CLOSING HYMN

"The Bells of Christmas"

\* DISMISSAL

*P Go in peace. Christ is with you.*

**C Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Pat-a-Pan"

R. W. Thygerson

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Leister  
NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner

## **WELCOME**

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the blue portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also in the guest book provided in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON. DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Jonathan Edwards 1703 – 1758, Evangelist: "I spent most of my time in thinking about divine things, year after year; often walking alone in the woods, and solitary places, for meditation, soliloquy, and prayer and converse with God."

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Dorothy Zeiders and children (Donna, Sam, Tom and Paul) on the death of husband and father, Dr. Samuel D. Zeiders Jr., who died on Saturday, December 18, 2010 at the Bridges at Brookline. Please keep the family in your prayers.

FOLDING CHAIRS AVAILABLE – The Property Committee has decided to make available to church members some older folding chairs that are stored downstairs **behind** the Fellowship Hall. There are about 45 green folding chairs and it would be good if members would take them home and make use of them. They have been stored for a long time and have a light dusting of mold, which wipes off easily. This storage is located at the west end of the Fellowship Hall on the left hand side inside the area with the **CHAIRS** sign on the door. Please tell a Property member if you intend to get some of the chairs. Questions, call Ann Beaver at 436-9382 or check with any Property member.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, December 19, 2010: \$200.00. Total received in fund to date: \$52,464.00.

THE 2011 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick up. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2010 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE IN YOUR PACKET, plus the loose plate offering at the Christmas Eve Service goes to the Matthew 25 Fund to help needy people and situations throughout the year. Please be as generous as you can.

THE 2011 FLOWER CHART has been placed in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come-first-served basis.

MESSIAH HERALD – At the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Worship and Music, it was determined, and backed up by PPC, that, beginning with the January 2011 edition, the Messiah Herald newsletter will continue to be published monthly. However the delivery will be different. Due to declining mailing numbers, we will no longer be eligible for a U.S. Postal Service annual mailing permit for bulk rate. However, on the positive side, this will save us \$185 annually, plus an approximate \$37 charge each month for mailing the newsletter, totaling around \$630 in savings each year. Beginning with January's issue, the Messiah Herald can be either downloaded online at [www.mlcMifflintown.org](http://www.mlcMifflintown.org) (click on the "Publications" tab) or by picking up a copy at one of four locations in the church – the church office, narthex, kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. We will continue to accumulate email addresses and the possibility of emailing the newsletter each month will exist sometime in the spring. As we continue to progress with our technology, we hope and pray that you continue to support, encourage, and utilize the new format by which the newsletter will be received into your homes.

### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader.

### **COMMUNITY**

FOOD PANTRY needs for January: All non-perishable foods, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues. Contributions may be mailed to Juniata County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059 (Weis gift cards are also appreciated). Food Pantry hours are: Monday 1-4, Tuesday and Thursday 3-6, and Saturday 10-1. For more information please call 436-9718.

SEE YOU AT "STUDY HALL" – Are you looking for a quiet place to study, or need help with your homework? Then Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 109 North Third Street, Mifflintown, PA is the place to be every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning December 15, 2010. We have lots to offer: experienced tutors and teachers, supervised study areas, room to spread out for large projects, computers available for research, and light snacks provided. OPEN TO STUDENTS OF ALL AGES.

NURSE'S NOTES – Though it is winter, don't forget to use sunscreen when working or playing out-of-doors! Darrell Rigeal, MD, FAAD, clinical professor of dermatology at NYU Medical Center identified six risk factors that independently predict melanoma (the most serious form of skin cancer).

1. History of blistering sunburns as a teenager.
2. Red or blond hair.
3. Marked freckling on the upper back – a sign of excessive sun exposure and that a person is susceptible to it.
4. Family history of melanoma.
5. History of Actinic Keratoses (Aks) – considered the earliest stage of development of skin cancer.
6. Outdoor summer jobs for three or more years as a teenager.

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.