### EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4901 Woodbine Road Sykesville, Maryland 21784 (410)795-6136

Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor Linda Bange, Director of Music

# December 24, 2018 10:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

WELCOME

THE PRELUDE "Noel Joyeux" LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Gordon Young

DUET

Ken Middleton & Becky Foulkrod

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, for God is with us, Emmanuel.

In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

God is truly with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

\*HYMN "Joy to the World"

UMH No. 246

## \*OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those God favors." This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Scripture Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:7, 9-14 Reflection

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

God has brought light into every darkness.

The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!

We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all.

We light the Candle of Christ -- witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.

Sung Response

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**UMH No. 218** 

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious-King."

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** 

Isaiah 52:7-10

OT pg. 642

This reading speaks of a time of great joy as the Lord saves the people and brings deliverance to Jerusalem. The messenger proclaims the good news.

**HYMN** 

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH No. 230

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

NT pg. 54

The Gospel tonight presents the story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances.

**HYMN** 

"The First Noel"

UMH No. 245

SERMON

"Making Room for Christmas"

Rev. Judy Emerson

**ANTHEM** 

The Sager Family

**OFFERING** 

Offertory

Stephanie Cvach

\*Presentation of our Gifts

\*Doxology "What Child Is This" UMH No. 219

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

# \*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we celebrate the birth of the Holy Child! Although born in humble surroundings, Jesus' presence surrounds all who call upon his name. The hope born in a manger long ago is birthed again. We gratefully offer these gifts as a way to provide hope for all of God's children. We rejoice in knowing that your ministry is strengthened by our gifts and prayers. We pray in the name of the Babe in the Manger. Amen.

## FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Titus 2:11-14

NT pg. 202

This reading looks forward to the fulfillment of the hope God has given to the world in Jesus. We are called to be messengers of God's truth and love by carrying the light of Christ into the world!

#### SHARING THE LIGHT

On this Holy Night we share the light of Christ with one another and give thanks to God who came to be with us and offer us the most wonderful gift of salvation from our sin, by his grace alone.

HYMN "Silent Night" UMH No. 239

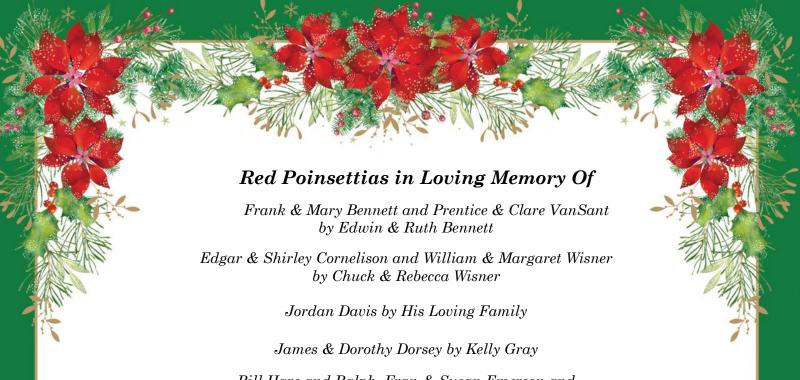
#### CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING WITH DISMISSAL

SOLO "O Holy Night" Ken Middleton

\*POSTLUDE



Bill Hare and Ralph, Fran & Susan Emerson and Sophie & Clarence Bunting

by Rev. Judy Emerson and The Brown Family

My Husband and My Parents by Betty Fullerton

Hilda & Myrvin Gardner by Their Family with Love

Mrs. Kitty Haight by Olivia Wisner

Our Grandparents by Sarah & Jason Humphries

Stephen Leary by Jim & Doris Leary

Charles E Mathias Sr & Margaret E Mathias by Kevin & Deborah Mathias

 $Bea \& David \ Scott \ by \ Buck \& \ Laura \ Scott$ 

Fred Sebly by Brenda Sebly

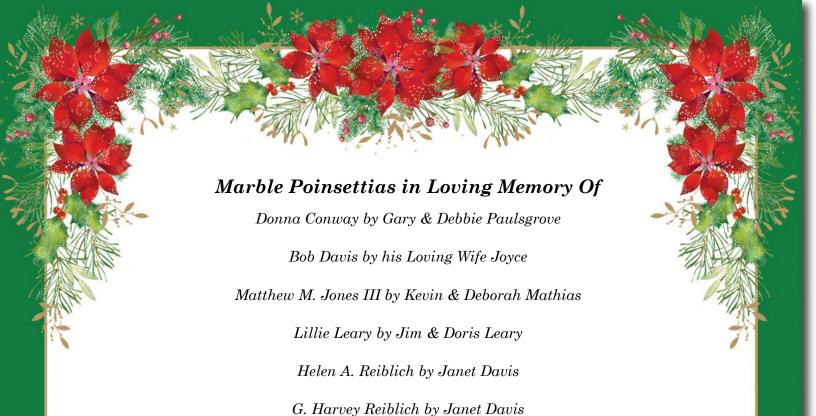
 $Robert \ \& \ Mattie \ McWilliams \ by \ Kelly \ Gray$ 

Ralph Tull by Gary & Debbie Paulsgrove

# Pink Poinsettias in Loving Memory Of

Charlotte & Donald Paulsgrove by Gary & Debbie Paulsgrove





# Bicolor Poinsettias in Loving Memory Of

Mae Fitzwater by Jim & Doris Leary

Our Grandparents by Sarah & Jason Humphries

Tony Pokorny by Rev. Judy Emerson and The Brown Family

White Poinsettias in Honor Of

Loved Ones Gone Too Soon by Kenny & Sandy Wean

Jan Tull by Gary & Debbie Paulsgrove

Marble Poinsettias in Honor Of

Mary Smith by Carolene Will

# Bicolor Poinsettias in Honor Of

Barbara Davis by Janet Davis

Barbara Hare and Bill & Mary Brown by The Brown Family and Rev. Judy Emerson