

**“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”
God is Still Speaking**

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

Ascension

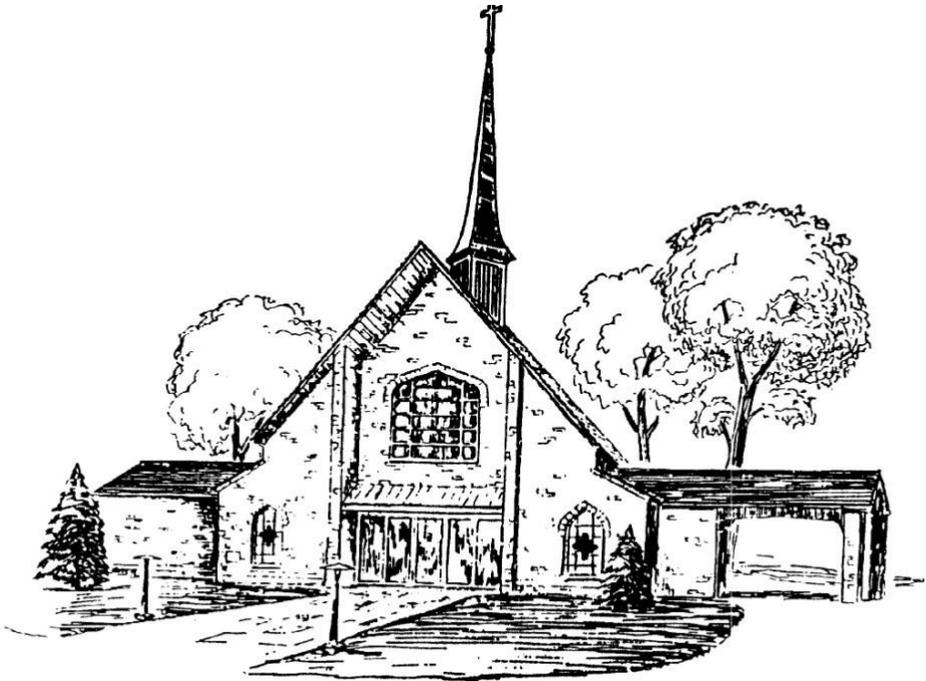
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



An Open and Affirming Congregation

December 29, 2019

11:00 AM



1700 West Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
(610) 539-1693

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“From the East We Journey Forth” (Jefferson)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

please rise

Leader: The prophecy is now fulfilled;
Heaven is now come to earth!

People: Jesus the Christ is born!

Leader: The older order is past; the new order is come!

People: Jesus the Christ is born!

Leader: Let us celebrate with great joy the birthing of
Emmanuel!

GATHERING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” *Glory to God 132*

CALL TO CONFESSION

those who desire to kneel, may do so at this time

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

in unison

Journeying God, we confess we come ill-prepared to the journey of discipleship. Too often we fail to fast from the world's allurements, to be regular in Lord's day worship, and to avail ourselves of the nourishment of Scripture and the practices of prayer. We tend to misjudge ourselves by believing we are stronger, more loyal than we are. We confess that when the journey gets tough, we are tempted to give up. And, when we face rejection on the way for being a disciple, we are tempted to deny our Lord by keeping silent. Forgive us for being more self-protective than surrendered, for love the known way more than the open road, for slowing down the progress Jesus desires by dragging our feet, and for dictating our destinations. Forgive us and make us new and faithful journeyers, we pray.

silent prayer of confession

KYRIE

Unison A D E A

1 Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, ky - ri -
2 Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri -

F# Bm E A (A)

e e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
ste e - le - i - son, ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Glory to God 591

PASSING THE PEACE

*Let us greet one another with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

THE CHILDREN’S TIME

please be seated

HYMN

“What Child Is This” *Glory to God 145*

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

please be seated

Hebrew Lesson	Isaiah 63:7-9	<i>page 693</i>
Epistle Lesson	Hebrews 2:10-18	<i>page 219</i>

	<i>please rise for the gospel</i>	
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 2:13-23	<i>page 2</i>

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

THE SERMON

ANTHEM

“What Gift Can I Bring?” (Miller/Reynolds)

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
STATEMENT OF FAITH

please rise in unison

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior
Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image, and set before each
one the ways of life and death

You seek in holy love to save all people
from aimlessness & sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior, you have come to us
and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of
discipleship, to be your servants in the service of
others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world,
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and
fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and
peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in
your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

please be seated

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES
OFFERTORY

“Gifts of the Manger” (Bogart/Byers/Dubbs)

DOXOLOGY

*please rise
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

in unison

God of all things new, in the birth of Christ Jesus you broke into the sin and darkness of this world with new light and righteousness for the souls of humankind. We offer these gifts to you with our prayer that new life and love, peace and joy may become the lived reality for all people on earth. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child” *Glory to God 126*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff has the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" with chord symbols A, F, D, E, A, D, E above it. The second staff has the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" with chord symbols A, E, Bm, E, A, D, L, A above it.

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“March of the Three Kings” (Traditional French)



We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to you during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.

We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.

Ministers	All the people of the Congregation
Pastor	The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier
Minister of Music	Dan Weckerly
President of the Consistory	Liz Brunton
Vice President of the Consistory	Michele Luke
Secretary of the Consistory	Molly Lorenz
Moderator of Spiritual Council	
Elders:	Liz Brunton, Joan Hagerman, Mary Lambon Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague Graham
Chair of the Diaconate	Michele Luke
Deacons:	Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman
Church Secretary	Judy Parker
Sexton	Emeric Suto
Treasurer	Sandy Maben

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