

The Gathering of God's People

Welcome

*Call to Worship

from Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

God has multiplied the nation and increased its joy.

We rejoice before God as with joy at the harvest.

God has broken the yoke of all burdens, and the rods of the oppressors.

All the instruments of war shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders.

**He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for all God's people.

**He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from
this time onward and forevermore.**

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Carol #140

Once in Royal David's City

*Word of Praise

from Psalm 96

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless God's name.

Tell of God's salvation from day to day.

**Declare God's glory among the nations and God's marvelous works among
all people.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD.

For the LORD is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

*Carol #134, vv. 1, 4

Joy to the World

*We Extend Christmas Peace to One Another

The Word Proclaimed

Titus 2:11-14

Carol #133, vv.1, 4

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Luke 2:1-7

Carol #114

Away in a Manger

Luke 2:8-14

Carol #121, vv.1, 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Communion Meditation

The Reverend Martha K. Spong

Bringing the Baby Home

Service of Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer

Holy God, giver of all gifts, we thank you. We know our Savior in the bread and cup we have shared. We know our Savior by the cross of his sacrifice. We know our Savior in the little baby born in a humble stable. We lift up our hearts in thanks for him, the greatest gift. May he live in us as surely as he lived all those years ago, rearranging our lives for your sake. Amen.

*Carol #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***BENEDICTION**

Go out and share the Good News.

Jesus Christ is born!

Because of Christ's love, we will never be the same.

His life and light will change us for good.

By God's grace, the world will never be the same.

We will go out into the world and share the Good News!

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*We welcome one and all to this Christmas Day worship service. Out of town guests, college students, military personnel, and neighbors near and far are welcome.*

*We wish you the joy and peace of the Christmas season.*

**Worship Leaders:**

The Reverend Martha K. Spong  
The Reverend Kathryn Z. Johnston

**Pianist:**

Andrea Singiser

**Christmas flowers** may be taken home today.

**A sincere thank you** to all who remembered the church staff with Christmas cards, gifts, and treats! Your kindness is appreciated, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

**The church office will be closed from Christmas through January 1, 2018** – If you would like to contact a pastor due to an emergency such as a hospitalization or death in the church family, please call **717-896-0131** at any time.

**You are invited to worship** Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 11:00 AM. We return to our regular worship schedule January 7, 2018 with services at 8:15 and 11:00 AM and Sunday School at 9:35 AM.

# Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church

300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

717-697-0351 • mechpresby.org



December 25, 2017 • 11am