

Messiah Lutheran Church, Fairview Park, Ohio
Christmas Eve, 2018

A warm welcome to all who are here this evening, especially our guests. How good to have you with us for our Christmas celebration. God grant that when the service is over we will all go home praising God for the things we have heard and seen.

Guests, please take a moment to fill out one of our visitor cards (you'll find them in the hymnal rack) and place it in the offering plate when it comes around or hand it to an usher. Should you wish to know more about Messiah, please call the church office, 440.331.2405, or visit our website, messiahfairview.org.

Concerning Holy Communion: We confess at Messiah that this is our Lord's gift to his Church, his true body and blood given with bread and wine for us to eat and drink. Here Christ confirms in us the benefits of his death and resurrection. He forgives our sins, refreshes our lives, and promises our salvation. We welcome to the Lord's Table all baptized and communing Christians who share this confidence

About tonight's offering: Unless otherwise designated, all gifts received will support the work and mission of Christ at Messiah in the current church year. Offering envelopes are in the hymnal rack. Gifts can also be offered online or via text message. For more information see page 15.

O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

with Carols and Candlelight as we celebrate
The Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
December 24, 2018
7 and 10 p.m.

PREPARATION AND ENTRANCE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

- “Baby Born in Bethlehem” Victor C. Johnson, (Messiah Choir)
“He Is Born, the Holy Child,” Barbara Kinyon, (Joy Ringers)
“A Carol Festival” Sharon Rogers, (Joy Ringers)

CONFESSION

Please stand as you are able.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P When the fullness of time had come God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children (Gal. 4:4-5). With hope and confidence in the Gospel of this holy night, let us confess our sins.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Almighty God, Father of love and compassion:

C We confess that we have disobeyed you in thought, word and deed. We have wandered from your presence. We have loved the works of darkness. We have grieved your heart. For Jesus' sake forgive us. Save us from our sins, and bring us at last to the joy of life eternal.

P “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.” As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God grant you the power of the Holy Spirit to hear his Word and believe it, to rejoice in his forgiveness, and to grow into the fullness of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Follow the cross as it enters from the door near the pulpit

ENTRANCE HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” #283

1 Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him...
Christ the Lord.

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:
Oh, come let us adore him...
Christ the Lord.

2 The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing
Oh, come let us adore him...
Christ the Lord.

4 Yea, Lord we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
Oh, come let us adore him...
Christ the Lord.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High,” #289
stanzas 1 and 3

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

FIRST READING..... Isaiah 9:2-7

When the reading concludes—

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-4 (Tune: “Away in a Manger”)

¹O sing to the LORD,
a new song we now sing.
O sing to the LORD,
all the earth Your praise bring.

²O sing to the LORD
and give praise to His name,
And day after day
His salvation proclaim.

³Among all the nations
His glories declare,
His marvelous works
to all folk ev’rywhere.

⁴For great is the LORD
and most worthy of praise;
He is to be feared
above all gods always

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

When the reading concludes—

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” #270
stanzas 1 and 2

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

P The Holy Gospel is a reading from the second chapter of St. Luke.

G **Glory to you, O Lord!**

When the reading concludes—

P This is the Holy Gospel.

G **Praise to you, O Christ!**

RESPONSE.....“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” #270 stanza 3

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY “Once in Royal David’s City,” #269

1 Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high;
There his children gather round,
Bright like stars, with glory crowned.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

To the words: Lord, in your mercy, *the congregation responds,*
Hear our prayer.

PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always;
- C** **And also with you.**

*Greet those around you with these or similar words.
Please be seated.*

The OFFERING is now received.

Use this time for quiet and prayerful reflection on the splendid gifts of God, above all, the one we're about to receive in the blessed sacrament. Here, Christ is present for us as he was for the shepherds. Thanks be to God. If you attend church elsewhere and are wondering whether you may receive the sacrament at Messiah tonight, see the invitation on the inside front cover.

“As Lately We Watched”Michael Phillips, (Messiah Choir)

Please stand as you hear the next carol being introduced.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING “The First Noel,” #300,
Stanzas 1 & 5

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.

5 Then entered in
 Those wise men three,
 Full rev’rently
 Upon their knee,
 And offered there
 In his presence
 Their gold and myrrh,
 And frankincense.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
 Born is the King of Israel.

- A** Let us pray. Heavenly Father,
- C** **You bless us with gifts beyond deserving. Accept these tokens of our thanks and use them for the saving purposes of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P** We give you thanks, Father...with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Come forward at the ushers' direction and follow the lead of those in front of you. There are two cups, the first to drink from, the second for intinction (dipping the edge of the bread wafer in the wine). Follow your preference. For a gluten-free host, ask the pastor. Those not communing, children or adults, are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Indicate this by crossing your arms as you approach.

“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head!” Cathy Moglebust, (Joy Ringers)

“The Friendly Beasts” Carl Wiltse, (Joy Ringers)

“What Child Is This” #296

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

“Joy to the World” #267

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.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #279

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

When all have returned to their places, please stand.

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C Amen.

MEDITATION ON CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Candles will be lit throughout the congregation as the musical reflection is sung. Acolytes and other servers will offer the flame, with candles upright, to the persons nearest the aisles, who should tilt their unlighted candles to receive it. These persons should then offer the flame to the person next to them, and so on, until all candles in the pew have been lighted. When your candle is lit HOLD IT UPRIGHT, and let your neighbor tilt the unlighted candle into yours.

“O Holy Night” John Behnke
(Messiah Choir)

PROCLAMATION AND PRAYER

P Dearly beloved: Jesus Christ, the true light that gives light to every human being has come into the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C Thanks be to God!

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord, and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only begotten Son, born of Mary, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

CANDLELIGHT HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night!” #281

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Please extinguish your candle; continue to hold it as we sing the last hymn, allowing the wax to harden.

RECESSIONAL HYMN“Go Tell It on the Mountain,” #290

Refrain sung by all; Verses sung by choir

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

1 While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain 2x*

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Jeffrey Blersch

“Hymn to Joy,” Ludwig von Beethoven, Arr. John Behnke



**THE POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR DISPLAY
ARE PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS FOR –**

Our Second Christmas at Messiah *by the Bridger Family*

Frank & Mildred Claycomb *by the Burce Family*

Allan Brinkmann *by Paula Brinkmann*

My parents Marjorie & Roy Walker, Sr. *by Rita Gadus*

My Sister June Schultz *by Rita Gadus*

Felipa Romo (Mom) *by the Geier Family*

Ignacio Romo (Dad) *by the Geier Family*

Iona M. Harris *by Roberta Holmes*

Our Parents *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*

To the Glory of God *by The Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Hathaway*

Our parents, Harriet and Bob Kraemer *by Barbara, Jim, Beth and Patty*

Our Parents and Grandparents *by Joe, Ruth and Sarah King*

Eleanor & Reinhold Leske *by Terri Leske*

Loved Ones *by Debbie Luekens*

Tom Filippou *by Debbie Luekens*

Mickie McDonald-MacKeigan
by John & Dianne McDonald and Brenden MacKeigan

John & Billie McFadden *by the McFadden Family*

Francis & Jane Pieper *by the McFadden & Neumann Families*

Don Moeller *by Wanda, Donna and Carol*

Mike & Julia Negray *by Ken Negray*

Carl, Ruth & Nancy Neumann *by the Neumann Family*

Susan Westcott *by Kathy Neumann and Priscilla Hinsch*

Joseph & Dorothy Nuessle *by Joseph Nuessle and Karen Watts*

Richard & Arline Watts *by Joseph Nuessle and Karen Watts*

Our Parents *by Frank & Ellen Petak*

Loved Ones *by Dorothy Raum*

Tracey Beard *by Louis & Carrie Royster*

Bob McKinney *by the Schauer Family*

Peter & Theresa Szeltner *by John & Heidi Szeltner*

Fred & Gloria Hunt *by Bob & Martha Trapp*

Bob & Mary Marshall *by Bob & Martha Trapp*

Loved Ones *by Steve and Christa Turnbull*

Continued prayers for baby Emerson *by the Waugh Family*

John & Irma Pugel *by the O'Malley and Waugh Families*

Robert, Patricia & Scott Waugh *by the Waugh Family*

Christmas Week at Messiah!

Dec. 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Festival Eucharist
Dec. 26	All Day	Church & School Offices Closed
Dec. 27	6 - 8:00 pm	Laundry Love @ Leo's Laundromat
Dec. 29		NO Contemporary Service
Dec. 30	8:30 & <u>10 am</u>	Holy Communion
Dec. 31	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Service
Jan. 1	All Day	Church & School Office Closed

Thanks be to God this Christmas...

For Christ our Savior, for a mid-December outpouring of financial support for God's mission at Messiah, and for a wonderful response to special requests for help this Christmas. Children served by Building Hope in the City and Kids Church got presents; moms and dads were able to warm their little ones with new hats, gloves and mittens; and food was donated to neighborhood organizations. To all who gave, thank you!

First Bible Class for 2nd Graders

Parents and second graders are invited to attend three sessions of a First Bible Class, led by Deaconess Jeanette Rebeck, on Sunday, January 13, 20 and 27 from 9:50-10:40 am in the second grade classroom. Bibles will be presented to students on Sunday, Jan. 27, at the 11 am worship service. Please RSVP so we can reserve a Bible for your child by contacting the church office at 440-331-2405 or email at church@messiahfp.org.

"Exploring Baptism"

This class is an orientation session for anyone interested in learning what baptism is about, and how it can happen for children and adults who weren't baptized as infants. Join us February 19 from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Commons. To learn more, inquire with Mrs. Casselberry or Pastor Seth Bridger at 440-331-2405.

Church Office Hours

The offices at Messiah Lutheran Church will be closed Dec. 24 - 26 and New Year's Day. In the event of an emergency, call Pastor Seth at 513-335-2882; otherwise, please leave messages utilizing the voicemail system at 440-331-2405.

Messiah School Open House

Messiah is now enrolling students in preschool-8th grade for the 2019-20 school year. See what a joyful, challenging education can mean for your world-changing student at our Open House on Sunday, Jan. 27, from 1 to 4 pm. Scholarships are available. Open House registration is encouraged, but not required. Call 440-331-6553 or email school@messiahfp.org to register or set a date for a free education consultation.

New Member Class

Interested in exploring membership at Messiah? Pr. Bridger will offer a special one-day class for prospective members on Sunday, January 27 from 12:30 to 5:00 pm. Our regular winter/spring membership class is scheduled for Tuesday evenings in Lent, March 12 to April 9. For more information about either of these opportunities, speak with one of the pastors or call the church office at 440-331-2405.

For Online Giving To Messiah

Messiah's website, www.messiahfairview.org offers a way to contribute online. Look for the "Donation" tab at the top of any page on the site. Clicking on it will take you to a secure giving page supplied and managed by Vanco Services, through Wells Fargo; when giving online, consider using the electronic check option.

Explore the Word this Winter

Messiah offers pastor-led classes for adults on Wednesday mornings and evenings; and on Sunday morning too. Persons interested in developing a home study group are encouraged to speak with Pr. Burce.

TEXT TO GIVE

Simply text your donation amount to **440-574-5039**. You will receive a text back with a quick link to register (name, credit card number, email for receipt purposes). Once you register, you can text to give without this registration process. It takes 30 seconds to register and 10 seconds to type a donation. You are welcome to do this during the offering or from home; text to give works every day of the week!

Save the Date!!!

January 13	First Bible Class Begins
January 13	Second Sunday/Education Hour
January 27	Messiah School Open House
February 19	"Exploring Baptism"
March 5	Shrove Fest
March 6	Ash Wednesday
April 14	Holy Week Begins
April 21	Easter Sunday
May 11	Messiah 5K Fun Run/Walk
June 1	Messiah Golf Outing @ Forest Hills Golf Course, Elyria

SERVING THIS EVENING

<i>Presiding Minister</i>	The Rev. Seth C. Bridger
<i>Preaching Minister</i>	The Rev. Dr. Jerome E. Burce
<i>Assisting Ministers</i>	Mike Allan, Paula Mickan (7 pm) Carl Herhuth, Paula Mickan (10 pm)
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	James Quayle, Pam Sugrue (7 pm) Cathie Janke, Kent Skurkey (10 pm)
<i>Lectors</i>	Janice Snyder, Mike Snyder (7 pm) Don Braun (10 pm)
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Connie Triplett
<i>Ensembles</i>	Joy Ringers and Messiah Choir
<i>Instrumentalists</i>	Trumpet: Tim Shaffer, Michael Willard; Horn: Beth Jokhio; Trombone: Katie Duncan; Flute: Bethany Roman (7pm); Violin: Signe Mortenson (10pm)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Christa Turnbull, Debbie Luekens, Allison Paton, Diane Paton, Marilyn Edwards, Maria Geier
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kaitlyn Carlin, Bryce Neumann, Evan Thiel (7 pm), Kevin McLeeson, Gavin Waugaman, Jared Waugaman (10 pm)
<i>Deacons</i>	Sid Gator, Mark Schauer (7 pm) Bob Trapp, Steve Turnbull (10 pm)
<i>Ushers</i>	Dana Quayle, Tim Roman (7 pm); Joe King, Ken Pillivant, Steve Swanson (10 pm)
<i>Trustee</i>	David Fretthold