

Lacey United Methodist Church
2020 Christmas Eve Service ~ 10PM

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn ~ #239 verses 1,3,&4 *There's A Song in the Air*

Opening Prayer ~

Loving God, moved by the coming of Christ to our lives, we seek to be your people. Help us to live in faithful covenant with you and with one another. Let the peace of Christ guide us, and let Christ's message in all its richness live in our hearts, that we may praise you without ceasing. Amen.

Hymn ~ #234 verses 1-3 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Scripture ~ Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19, 22:15-18
Ken & Alease King

Hymn ~ #223 verses 1&3
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Scripture ~ Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *Betty Carhart*

Christmas Wreath Lighting *Bill & Donna Jones*

Hymn ~ #228 verses 1&4
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Scripture ~ Luke 1:26-35 *Emmett & Gloria Bivins*

Hymn ~ #238 verses 1,3&4
Angels We Have Heard On High

Scripture ~ Luke 2:1-6 *Rich Rosfjord*

Scrooge Monologue *Dominic Gregoria*

Message ~ *The Redemption of Scrooge:*
"Keeping Christmas Well" J. Campbell

Hymn ~ #245 verses 1,2,&4 *The First Noel*

Scripture ~ Matthew 2:1-11 *Luke Kern*

Christmas Offering Prayer

Lord God, thank you for giving Jesus to us in order to save us from ourselves and our circumstances. Thank you for setting the stage with a beautiful baby. Thank you for opening our hearts so that our minds would be more receptive to your desires for your people. May the selfish child within each of us find you, your Son's example, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that from this day forward we forever remember and offer gratitude for this Child, a gift we could never afford to pay back. Amen.

Christmas Offering Carol ~ *I Wonder As I Wander*
Sherry Exel & Cynthia Pedemonti

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us. May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

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.
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

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. 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Scripture ~ John 1:1-5

Isabella Wioland

Candle Lighting

Hymn ~ #239 Silent Night

Fred Weidemann

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude ~ #246

Joy to the World

*May your hearts forever be a manger
for the King of Kings!*

203 West Lacey Road P.O. Box 151 Forked River, NJ 08731
(609) 693-5222 Laceyumcnj@gmail.com www.laceyumc.org

All Music used with permission CCLI#2274807

There's a Song in the Air #249 Vs. 1,3,& 4

There's a song in the air, there's a star in the sky
There's a mother's deep prayer, and a baby's low cry.
And the star reigns it's fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

In the light of that star, lie the ages impearled
And that song from afar, has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King.

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly
throng.

Ay! We shout to the lovely Evangel they bring
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King.

O Come All Ye Faithful #234 Vs.1-3

O come all Ye faithful, joyful & triumphant
O come Ye, o come Ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels
O come let us adore Him,
Oh come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb.
Son of the Father, begotten, not created.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O sing all Ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light #223 vs. 1&3

Break forth O beauteous heavenly light,
And usher in the morning.
O shepherds shrink not with a fright
But hear the angels warning.
This child now weak in infancy
Our confidence and joy shall be.
The power of Satan breaking
Our peace eternal making.

Come, dearest child, into our hearts,
And leave your crib behind you.
Let this be where the new life starts
For all who seek and find you.
To you, the honor, thanks and praise
For all your gifts this time of grace
Come conquer and deliver
This world and us forever.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #218. Vs.1&4

It came upon a 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.

For Lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old.
When with the ever circling years,
Shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth,
It's ancient splendors fling
And the whole world send back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

Angels We Have Heard on High #238. Vs. 1,3,&4

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on blended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo
Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo.

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels sing.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo.
Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo.

The First Noel #245 Vs. 1,2 &4

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.

They looked up, and saw a star
Shining in the east, Beyond them far.
And to the earth, it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh, to the north west.
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all;
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Silent Night #239

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, sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing
Alleluia, Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is
born!

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

Silent night, Holy night! Wondrous star, lend them light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King; Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Joy to the World #246

Joy to the World, the Lord is come,
Let Earth receive her King.
Let every heart, prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven,
And nature sing.

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.