

Christmas Eve 2017

THE GOSPEL EXPRESS

7:00 and 9:00 PM

Community

a United Methodist Church

1690 Riedel Road
Crofton, MD 21114
410.721.9129

www.cumc.net

www.facebook.com/CUMC.Crofton

www.cumc.onthecity.org

Gathering to Worship

Prelude various musicians and vocalists (see Serving in Worship)

Greetings and Expectations

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

A Reading from Isaiah 9 (vv 2, 6-7)

Lighting the Chancel and Advent Candles

Advent Response ~ "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Invocation (opening prayer)

Silent Prayer

*Passing the Peace



Our Praise

*Carol Medley ~ Congregation

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ~ John Wade

#234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, (3x)
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, (3x)
Christ the Lord!

"Angels We Have Heard on High" ~ French Carol

#238

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!

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

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" ~ Charles Wesley

#240

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (reprise) ~ John Wade

#234

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Anthem Response in Handbells ~ 7:00 PM "God Rest You Merry Gentleman"
~ 9:00PM "What Child Is This?"



The Word

The Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Carol Response ~ "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230 v1

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see 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.

The First Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Carol Response ~ "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230 v2

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

*The Second Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-24

Carol Response ~ "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#230 v3

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

*The Third Gospel Lesson
Carol Response ~ "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

John 1:1-18
#230 v4

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;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

The Lighting of the Christ Candle
Silent Reflection

The Homily

"The Gospel Express"

Pastor Stan Cardwell



Our Response to the Word

The Offering

The Invitation

Offertory ~ "O Emmanuel"

The Chancel Choir
#94

*Presentation of our Gifts ~ The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



The Lesson of Lights

Candle Lighting Carols ~ Congregation

{Lighting our Candles - Our lights have been dimmed to symbolize the darkness of the world before the birth of Christ. The Christ Candle, in the center of the Advent wreath, has been lit to symbolize Christ's presence in the world. There remains the spreading of the Light (the Gospel or "Good News" that God's Son lived and died and was raised that we might have eternal life). This is the responsibility of His disciples. It was nobly done by the first twelve apostles, then by the thousands of their converts. Today, the spreading of the Light is our task, and there is none greater.

As members of our congregation light their candles from the Christ candle, and as they go out into the congregation so that you may light your candles, let us be reminded of the task before us, to take Christ's light into the world.
As you light your candle, breathe a solemn prayer that the lit candle you are holding may truly symbolize your consecration and dedication to Jesus Christ.}

"Silent Night, Holy Night" ~ Joseph Mohr

#239

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,
sleep in heavenly peace.
3. Silent night, holy night,

2. 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!
4. 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.

wondrous star, lend thy 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" ~ Isaac Watts

#246

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world 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.
3. No more let sins and sorrows 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.
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.

*The Charge and Blessing – Believe!

*Departing Carol ~ "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - chorus

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Postlude



SERVING IN WORSHIP DECEMBER 24

Ushers: Tom Reed, Don Larson, Richard Arnett

Lectors: 7:00pm – Frank and Karen Gould, Candis Milbourne,

Hilary Ann Golden, 9:00pm – Mike and Nancy Gorman

Candle Lighters – 7:00pm - the Holly family

Accompanist – John Park

Musicians and Vocalists – The Chancel Choir, Jubilate Bronze Handbells, Lynn Bogovich,

Pey-Schuan Jian, Anna Scoffield, Andrew Bogdan, Amy Randeau, Ian Matthieu,

Gelsey Jian, Ashley Boberson



Christmas Poinsettias and Greens

In Honor of:

Chris & Ange Beegle and family, and

Ralph & Diana Giernacky and family

James Thornton and Bertha Atkins

Nancy Sauer

Our family - Jonny, Erika, Jeff and Meredith

Stephen and Mary Beegle

Stephen and Mary Beegle

Vicki Duane

Doug Sauer

Joan Stanley and Jack Herbert

In Memory of:

All our loved ones who have gone to the other side

Ted Drabczyk

Sue Thornton

Ruth and Jack Holly

Nanette and Guy Agnor

Ron Hunt

Ken McKee and Marion and Margaret Ray

Vivian McMeans

My Mom

My parents - Virginia and Moore Linkenhoker, and

Charles Stanko

Bob Sauer

My parents, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Amos, and

My son, Robert Shively

Ted and Marian Ekers and Gene Stargel

Mr. & Mrs. Rollin Todd and Dr. & Mrs. J.W. Hornbeck

Andrew and Molly Casazza

Karen Drabczyk

Vicki Duane

John Holly

Mary Beth Holly

Jane Hunt

Marilyn McKee

Bob McMeans

Margaret Passalacqua

Gina Perantoni

Gina Perantoni

Doug Sauer

Beverly Shively

Beverly Shively

Lanie Stargel

Gary Todd



Make a Difference

Winter Relief is here again! During the cold half of the year, the churches in our area collaborate to provide shelter to men and women who need a safe place to spend the night. Each year CUMC and Trinity provide transportation for 30 to 40 men who spend seven nights at Ann Seton Church on Davidsonville Rd. We need people to drive the church van between Crofton and Glen Burnie at 7 am, 4:30 pm and 7 pm from February 5th – 12th. You only need a regular driver's license and a willing heart. Please contact Steve Hendershot at 443-510-4214 or stevehendershot@live.com to find out more and schedule a time that works for you.

Winter Coat Drive. Place your clean, gently used winter coats in the big red-ribboned box in the narthex/welcome center until Jan. 3rd. This is the sixth year CUMC has participated in our coat drive. Thank you to everyone who has shared the warmth!

CCCC Baby Pantry at CUMC. Thanks to your continued generosity the Baby Pantry has distributed about 23,000 diapers, over 750 packages of baby wipes, and over 200 cans of formula, so far this year. We are greatly in need of Similac Advanced Dry Formula (blue can) and size 6 & 5 diapers. We also need baby wipes, as we have been purchasing them for the first time in over an year. Your continued support of this mission is greatly appreciated by all who visit the Baby Pantry.

Food Pantry Item this month: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Mark your calendars . . .

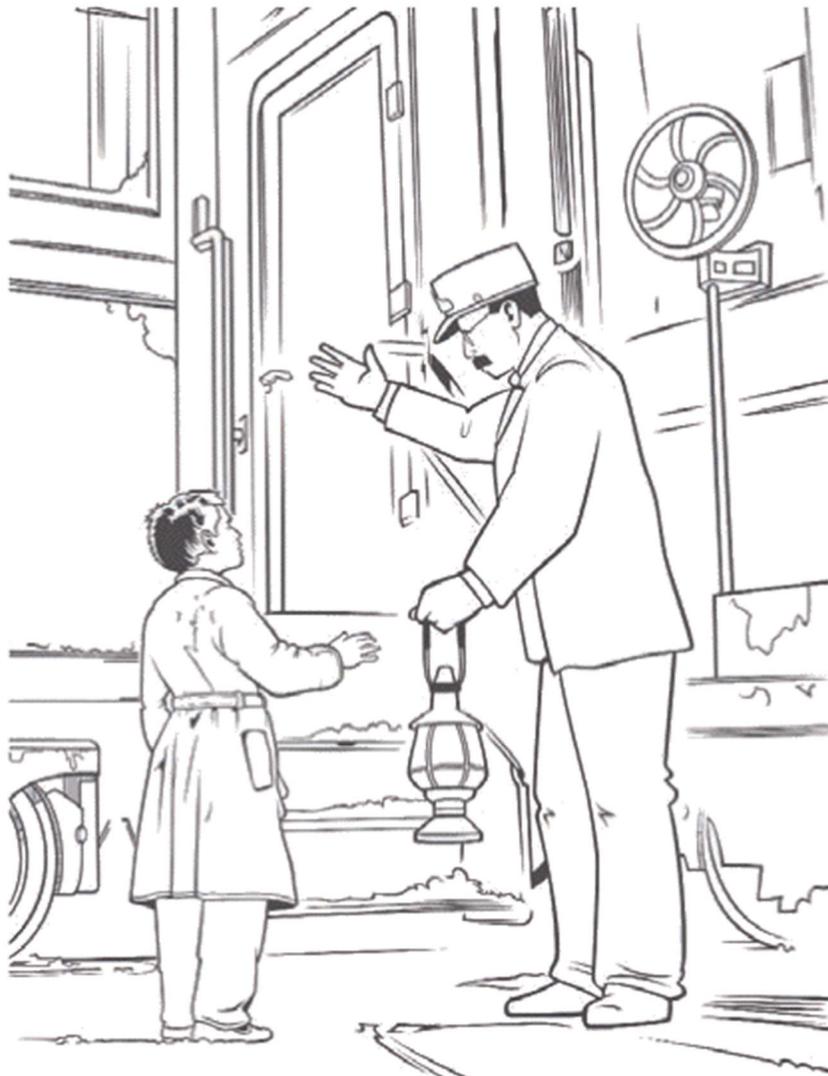
December 25 – Office closed – Merry Christmas!

December 31– **Combined worship service at 10:00 am**

(Carols and pre-launch intro to the Freeway series)

January 7 – new series launch – Freeway – A Not-So-Perfect Guide to Freedom

Children's (and Adult's) Coloring (and Notes) Page



I believe

