

**December 29, 2019 10:45**

**1st Sunday After Christmas**

**The days between Christmas and New Year's Day see a shift from the images of angels and the manger to the annual retrospectives on the year that has passed.  News and TV shows use collages of images to remind people of things that have taken place in the last twelve months.  Similarly, Hebrews chapter 2 uses a collage of images to show who Jesus is and what it means to follow him.**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** **Hymnal 238 Angels we have heard on high** *Gloria*

**Greeting**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

**People: that the King of glory may come in.**

 *Psalm 24:7*

**Announcements**

\*10:45 **Introit**  *Douglas E. Wagner*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Rejoice! Our Lord is born!

 Every heart prepare him room.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ is born, give him glory!

**People: Christ has come down from heaven, receive him!  Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

**People: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!**

*Traditional Byzantine Christmas Prayer*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 219 What child is this** *Greensleeves*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**O God our Father, you have brought us again to the glad season**

**when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day**

**and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us.**

**Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old.**

**Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts.**

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Book of Worship, 1944*

**Silent Prayer**

**\*Response Gloria Patri (**Hymnal #71) *Greatorex*

 **… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Sacrament of Baptism**  page 39, Rev. Scott Miller, officiating

*Ezra James Gibson,*

*son of David Weston Gibson, Jr. & Jamie Lynn Gibson*

***Congregational Response:***

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

and include *Ezra James* now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news
     and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround** *Ezra James* **with a community of love and forgiveness,
     that he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,
     that he may be a true disciple,**

 **who walks in the way that leads to life.**

**The Sign of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

 **People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

 **This, this is where children belong,**

 **Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.**

 **Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:**

 **This is where children belong.**

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Scott Miller

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. *Today, a wiggle room is available in Brookline Parlor, but there is no Sunday school hour, nursery or Kids Praise.*

**Hymnal 242 Love came down at Christmas**  *Gartan*

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading Rev. Scott Miller

**A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures**

 Isaiah 63:7-9 Prayer of yearning

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Hebrews 2:10-18 Qualified to be a high priest

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

10:45 **Offertory anthem**  *French traditional tune, arr. Robert Buckley Farlee*

 All the sky is bright, filled with joy, a new joy. Waiting for the night, we will talk of wonders. Never was a feast like this! Born is Jesus Christ, born the Child-God giv’n to us!

Now the Light appears, Word of God eternal. All the universe knows the Father’s goodness. God the Lord of heav’n and earth comes to show the way, guides our feet to endless day.

 Not alone they come, simple shepherds, wise men:

 all the human race wants to make him welcome,

 wants to look up on the face of the Lord of bliss, who becomes a child for us.

 Glory sing to Christ, Son of God the Father; glory sing again to the loving Spirit. Brilliant is the mystery all the bright skies tell: God dwells with us. Sing Noel

  translation st. 1,3 © 1974 Hope Publishing Co; st. 2,4 © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

**Hymnal 219 What child is this** (stanza 3) *Greensleeves*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;**

 **the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

 **This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

 **haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon**  “Four Pictures of Jesus” Rev. Scott A.F. Miller

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 240 Hark! the herald angels sing** (stanzas 1-2) *Mendelssohn*

**Benediction**

\***Hymnal 240 Hark! the herald angels sing** (stanza 3) *Mendelssohn*

*Join us for services next Sunday, January 5, on the feast of Epiphany, featuring a Christmas Carol Communion, led by Rev. Kimberly Greway.*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by the Homebuilders class in loving memory of Bill Merchant.

**Special Music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir conducted by Julia Scott, a member of the choir and a professional harpist.

**Acolytes** Xavier Sanchez and Vivienne Volek

**Greeter 10:45** Frances Graham

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $66 for the chancel.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

7I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. 8For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior 9in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Hebrews 2:10-18**

10It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” 13And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

14Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

May Frederick, Baptist Home

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Woody Kimmel, Providence Point

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

Anne Hoffman, Providence Point

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Ezra Gibson, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Steve Howard, Dave Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Bob Mallery, Jinny Sheppard, Carol Van Sickle, Arlene Stewart, Peyton Wisterman

**In the Military**

Matt Lewis, USMC,

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt Michael Zimmerman

*Each year the W PA Conference and Eastern German Conference create daily Advent and Christmas devotionals for use in our homes and churches. We have chosen devotionals from each week*

**Dienstag 24. Dezember; 1. Johannes 4, 9-10**

**Bischof Harald Rückert, Frankfurt/Main**

How can we recognize God? How come we know anything about God in the first place? How can we be sure that we are talking and singing about God and not just about our own wishes or fears? After all, no-one has ever seen God. “Love makes you blind” is a German saying. It suggests that someone who is in love may sometimes lose sight of reality, may well overlook the obvious in themselves and in the object of their affections, may well act in ways which others do not understand. A hint of danger is perceived here. “Love makes you blind”. The writer of the First Letter of John is convinced that quite the opposite is true! To love is to discover God, and not to love means not to recognize God. In other words: love makes you see! It is through love that we know God. This is a most interesting view, and it is the sequence which is important and revealing. There is no sense here that true knowledge of God or true faith in the right things is the starting point from which the right sort of actions, loving behaviour, will flow. Quite the opposite. People who love get to know God. Or more precisely, those who allow themselves to be loved by God discover God. True knowledge of God is by no means a theoretical issue. It begins quite simply where someone is personally touched by God’s love. This is an eye-opening experience. God’s love is clear to see in the child in the manger, in the rabbi from Nazareth, preaching and healing, in the tortured, dying Christ on the cross, and in the risen Lord. There the love of God shines bright and invites those who experience it to a life of reconciliation and freedom. And as people loved, made whole by God, our eyes are opened a second time. We discover places, situations and people around us to whom we can pass something on, so that they, too, can be touched by love and can come to know God for themselves. „Christ is the world’s light, Christ and none other; born in our darkness, he became our brother. If we have seen him, we have seen the Father: Glory to God on high!”

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 THRU SATURDAY, JANUARY 4**

**SUNDAY 12/29**

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

**MONDAY 12/30 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**

**TUESDAY 12/31 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**

**WEDNESDAY 1/1**

 **OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**

**THURSDAY 1/2**

8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Asbury Kitchen

 9 am Hearts and Hands Epworth Chapel

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 1/4**

 10 am Food Distribution & Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry