

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982
FAX: 203.877.8973

First Methodist Church in Milford: 1836

Current building dedicated: 1893

Merged with Myrtle Beach Community Church: 1969

Nesting Ghana Emmanuel U.M. Church: 2016

*Whoever you are, wherever you are
on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“GAUDETE”

December 17, 2017

Order of Worship

10:00 a.m.

(* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

INFORMAL CAROL SINGING (9:45 a.m.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Savior of the Nations, Come” P. Manz

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

*CALL TO WORSHIP **I Thessalonians 5:16-24, CEB**

Leader: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

People: ***Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.***

Leader: May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: ***The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.***

*HYMN #184 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Divinum Mysterium

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Joy

Bob and Lorraine Volgmuth, Christine Volgmuth, Tara Volgmuth

SUNG RESPONSE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Hymn #206, vs. 3

“I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

°°°

THE COLLECT (*unison*)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to thy wisdom, that we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, one God, world without end. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Blessed Lord, we too often watch for what we want rather than what you give. Forgive our undue love of the world; our distracted faith; our ineffectual service. Save us from hungers that are too easily satisfied. Help us to live for holy purpose, that we may not be ashamed, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Bible p.678

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God.***

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN Pastor Dani Levine

*THE GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28 Bible p.966

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

*HYMN #214 “Savior of the Nations, Come” Nun Komm

THE SERMON “Billboards for God” Dr. Bodt

+A BILLBOARD LITANY

All: O Lord, help my life become a billboard for you.

Let each day of my week be lived in praise of you.

Right: Rejoice always! (*Monday*)

Left: Pray without ceasing! (*Tuesday*)

Right: Give thanks in all circumstances! (*Wednesday*)

Left: Do not quench the Spirit! (*Thursday*)

Right: Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything! (*Friday*)

Left: Hold fast to what is good! (*Saturday*)

All: Abstain from every form of evil. (Sunday)

Let each day of my week be lived in praise of you, O God. Come, Lord Jesus!

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal #895

*THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord be always with you. P: *And also with you.*

(Greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.)

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Connor

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem:

“A Tiny Child will Come”

Besig/Price

*Presentation:

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Hymnal #236, vs. 6

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;

Good will hence forth from heaven to earth begin and never cease, begin and never cease.

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #217

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a Manger

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BELL TOLLS – *Sending us to walk with and witness for Jesus*

*POSTLUDE

“From Heaven Above”

W. Held

(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.