

HELP WARM YOUR NEIGHBOR

A Special Offering to support the "ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" for THE CITY OF MILFORD.



With the cancelation of the Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Eve Service due to inclement weather, our city lost an opportunity to support the CT Energy Assistance Program. This program administered through the work of the Milford Department of Human Services on behalf of TEAM, Inc. helps provide assistance to needy households in an effort to make energy costs (oil, natural gas, electricity etc.) more affordable during the heating season. *This special offering is being received to support the "ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"*

Last year, DHS processed 788 applications for Energy Assistance assisting 1409 individual family members. This year the need is even greater and the funds coming to our city from the state and federal government have been reduced. *Won't you please help warm your neighbor?*

Checks should be made out to the
"CITY OF MILFORD" with "ENERGY ASSISTANCE" in the Memo Line.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP PARTY

YANKEE SWAP



- WHO:** Mary Taylor Adults & Guests
- WHAT:** Bring a **\$10 wrapped gift** for our Yankee Swap plus an **APPETIZER** (Last name beginning with A-K) or **DESSERT** (last name beginning with L - Z). Beverages will be provided.
- WHEN:** Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 5:00 pm
- WHERE:** Dodd Hall, Mary Taylor Memorial UMC
- WHY:** For **Fun & Fellowship** - We promise you will learn something about your fellow guests that you never knew before! Contact Michelle Craig at 203.877.4332 or michellemtmumc@gmail.com for additional information.



Grace Notes
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2014

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Today we bless our Chrismon tree. It is a larger tree this year which allows a more prominent display of our Nativity in the chancel, prepared by Brenda and Ed Pineau, Bob and Becky Virgalla, Priscilla James and Ryan Lapadula. Additional visuals include the 2nd Advent banner and wreaths adorning our doors, put up by Rich Perregaux. We thank all these leaders whose gifts and service enhances our worship. Keep watching as Advent unfolds.

The Chrismon tree began in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia in 1957. It is covered with signs of Christ and symbols of our faith made by our church's children and adults.

Our special offering today is replicated by churches throughout Milford that would have participated in the snow-cancelled Community Thanksgiving Worship. It benefits Milford residents in need of heating assistance.

I hope you will come to the Adult Fellowship Christmas party today at 5 p.m. described in detail on the rear cover. This annual event is fun, a great way to meet people and enjoy our church community. I also ask you to support the children this coming Saturday at 5 p.m. as they enact the Christmas pageant and its story of Christ Jesus. Kayleigh Patterson, one of our Confirmation youth, has given a new twist on the original script written by Lisa Gloates. After the pageant, our Methodist Youth Fellowship has their annual dinner (free-will offering) and dessert auction (to benefit missions). All these activities are in Dodd Hall.

May this Season be rich in sign and action as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Website: www.mtm-umc.org

www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers	All the People of God	Interim Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Ernest S. Lyght
Lay Leaders	Kelly O'Hara & Leigh Bak	Bishop-elect	The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Superintendent	The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

CHILD CARE for children 5 and under is provided in Wesley Center, the building next door. You may also hear the service in Dodd hall should your child become restless. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary; the child care in Wesley Center is not staffed to provide for older children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Greeters – Maureen Groves and Ruth

Starcher

Acolytes – Lillia Downing and Amanda Repetsky

Cross Bearer – Olivia Kingston

Liturgist – Lia Bonfietti-Csvihinka

Bible Bearer – Mary Repetsky

Communion Stewards: Karen Keane and Becky Virgalla

Communion celebrants: Pastors Brian and Hal, Leigh Bak and Lia Bonfietti-Csvihinka

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian and Lia Bonfietti-Csvihinka.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Josephine and Bud Downing's anniversary, given by Paul, Bev and Lillia.

For Lucy – 6 years in heaven.

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP, see our ushers for:

- Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins
- Hearing Assist Devices
- Children's bulletins for ages 3 – 6 and 7 – 12

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. Ushers collect them on the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. Please obtain others' permission to share their concerns. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.

TODAY'S LITURGY is taken from Holy Scripture and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The Sung Communion is adapted from an original by "Creative Communications for the Parish." The Collect is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (1892). The Unison Confession was written by the pastor.

SERMON COPIES from recent weeks are in the rear of the church or www.mtm-umc.org.

CHURCH INFORMATION is available in the racks in back of the church.

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, December 7</i> ADVENT II	<i>9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center</i> <i>10:00 a.m. Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i> POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE! <i>11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i> <i>Boys and Girls Village Gift Tags available</i> <i>5:00 p.m. Adult Christmas party and Yankee swap – Dodd Hall</i> <i>7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Monday, December 8</i> <i>Tuesday, December 9</i>	<i>5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i> <i>7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 10</i>	<i>5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i> <i>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 11</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center</i> <i>7:00 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship Candied Apple Making – Dodd Hall</i> <i>7:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley</i>
<i>Center</i>	<i>(if needed)</i>
<i>Friday, December 12</i> <i>Saturday, December 13</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. Church office volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i> <i>3:30 p.m. Pageant rehearsal - Sanctuary</i> <i>5:00 p.m. Christmas pageant and dinner sponsored by the Sunday School and Methodist Youth Fellowship – Sanctuary and Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Sunday, December 14</i> ADVENT III/Gaudete	<i>9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center</i> <i>10:00 a.m. Worship</i> <i>11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i> <i>4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Christmas caroling – Dodd Hall, then</i>
<i>traveling to</i> <i>Gages’,</i>	<i>Seacrest (West Haven) and Milford Health and Rehab returning to the</i> <i>210 Tanglewood, Milford</i>
<i>Monday, December 15</i>	JANUARY “BEACON” DEADLINE” <i>7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 16</i>	<i>5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i> <i>7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 17</i>	<i>5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i> <i>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 18</i> <i>Friday, December 19</i> <i>Saturday, December 20</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Membership and Evangelism – Wesley Center (if needed)</i> <i>10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers - Wesley Center</i> <i>Noon Private party – Dodd Hall</i>

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

HOME VISITATION by Pastor Brian is available to become better acquainted. Visits may also occur in his office. Weekday, evening and Sunday appointments are available. If you would like to arrange for one, please contact Mary Lou Kampert at 203.874.1982, ext. 10.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please note that when only one staff person is in the Wesley Center during office hours the building is locked. If you find this, please call the office (203.874.1982) or ring the Broad Street doorbell. Thank you.

BULLETIN NOTICES are due by noon Wednesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

FOOD BASKET: Please place non-perishable food items in the basket located in the back of the church & monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Wet and dry cat food is still needed for seniors with pets, but the Animal Control is not allowed to take in peoples’ released pets. However, they do take care of kittens and will spay and neuter feral cats as has been the policy for years. They also request towels and blankets for the animals. Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Pastor Brian (brian.bodt@yahoo.com: 203.874-1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753) is typically in office 9 – Noon, Mon. – Thurs. Pastor Hal Vink can be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@gmail.com. Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations.

“FIX IT BOX” is in Dodd Hall. See a need? Drop a completed form in the box.

WE HOST Alcoholics Anonymous AND Gamblers Anonymous WEEKLY. Please call the church office for the schedule or see it posted on the bulletin boards.

PLEASE NOTE: Should there be a medical or other emergency during the worship service, someone designated by the head usher will call #911. Do not call on your cell phone. Multiple calls may delay response. Thank you.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 30th:

Total worship attendance all services: 176 (Nov. 30th, 171; Healing and Wholeness, Dec. 1: 5) Total Offering (minus “Lift Us Up) for Nov. 30: \$4,544; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts: \$165. Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$727.67; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 105 (Office Volunteers 2; Sunday School: 41; Adult Bible Study-Tues., 11/25: 5; Wed., 11/26: 8; Disciple 3: 11; Confirmation: 8; Praisemakers: 2; Bell Choir: 10; Adult Choir: 18). Total persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0.) *Important! Small Groups – please email the church office (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or call (203.874.1982) with your attendance.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God's presence with us. Please complete a red visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the "Visitor" name tag to help us greet you warmly. Our Ambassadors will look for you!

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary). Join us for a few moments of fellowship and conversation. Today's hosts are the Finance Committee. Next week's hosts are the Board of Trustees. **COOKIES AND CHRISTMAS ITEMS** not sold at yesterday's Cookie Walk are also on sale to benefit our mission and youth programs.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS are due today to the church office. This is an absolute deadline because the florist requires a "count" by Dec. 8.

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE GIFT TAGS remain available from Maryann Petremont during Fellowship Time. These gifts brighten Christmas Day for the children. Please return gifts to the church on next Sun., December 14th, wrapped and with the gift tag attached. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING offers many choices to bless others while providing that gift "for the person who has everything." See the many options on the form in Dodd Hall or the Narthex. Please return your gift to the Mission table in Dodd Hall during Fellowship Time or mail it to the church office by next Sunday, December 14th. Thank you!

"LIFT US UP!" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN continues today for handicapped accessible renovations to Wesley Center. See the info table in Dodd Hall with our new brochure. If you did not receive a letter this week inviting a pledge toward our remaining \$137,000 goal, please see co-chairs T. Beyer (203.525.2265; tom.beyer@cort.com) or R.Merva (203.641.5088; rmerva@optonline.net).

LIVING CRECHE SIGN-UPS continue today in Dodd Hall. The Living Creche is a Nativity tableau with live people posing as the Holy Family in 20-22 minute shifts. Sign ups are Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23 from 6 – 8 p.m. and Christmas Eve from 5 – 7 p.m. Speak with Rachel Merva or reach her at rmerva@optonline.net or 203.641.5088.

OUR "EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY" 2015 finance campaign concludes Sunday, December 21st. "Estimate of Giving" cards are available in the pews and from the ushers and may be submitted in the morning offering or mailed or delivered to the church office. Please read the Heart Cards displayed in the sanctuary and Dodd Hall.

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY AND YANKEE SWAP is tonight, 5 p.m. See the notice on the rear cover.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

CANDIED APPLE PREPARATION by high school Methodist Youth Fellowship members happens Thursday, Dec. 11, 7-9 p.m. in Dodd Hall. RSVP to Sheryl Hollyday at doulee@aol.com to let us know you can help.

OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is this Saturday, December 13th, 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. Dress rehearsal will be at 3:30 p.m. Today is the last day to tell Cathy Cono (203.645.2362 or spikkio@optonline.net) that you wish your child to participate. Singers and musicians needed as well as pageant roles.

DINNER AND DESSERT AUCTION FOLLOWS THE PAGEANT, hosted by our Methodist Youth Fellowship. Your free-will offering for dinner supports the MYF mission projects. Please support our children and youth.

NEXT SUNDAY

WORSHIP THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, December 14th, celebrates "Gaudete," the joyful Sunday in Advent. The Advent wreath will be lit by John and Anna Henry. "Out of Control" is the sermon based on Isaiah 61:1-4 and 8-11 and John 1:6-8 and 19-28. Our Mission Minute will focus on the Alternative Christmas Gift-Giving.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING is next Sunday, Dec. 14th, meeting in Dodd Hall at 4 p.m. Anyone from the youngest baby to the most grown up is welcome. You do not need exceptional music talent to participate: just a desire to share the joy of the season. After a brief "rehearsal" we'll head by carpool to Sea Crest in West Haven and Milford Health and Rehabilitation. After caroling, we'll return to the Gage's house, 210 Tanglewood Circle, for refreshments and fellowship. (If you'd like to contribute to the refreshments, please contact Tina at 203.877.1924 or tinagage@optonline.net). Warning: this activity may brighten your life and Christmas season as well!

COMING SOON

JANUARY "BEACON" DEADLINE: Monday, December 15th with articles submitted hard copy or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON: Sunday, Dec. 21st, after worship hosted by the Men's Club. If you'd like to help speak with Jim Repetsky or call him at 203.874.8688.

LIVING CRECHE: Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Wed., Christmas Eve, 6 – 7 p.m. Sign up today in Dodd Hall as detailed under "Activities and Information Today."

“BLUE CHRISTMAS” WORSHIP

Christmas and the days preceding it are not always happy. For people facing difficult life circumstances, a “Blue Christmas” worship service can provide a compassionate antidote to forced gaiety. Thanks to Jane Vink for providing this information. All services are United Methodist except Griffin Hospital and will be held:

Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Golden Hill Church, Golden Hill Street at Lafayette Square,
Bridgeport (main sanctuary entrance) (203.336.0152)
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m., The Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital, 350 Seymour
Avenue (corner of Division Street), Derby (203.736.9911)
Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m. Monroe Church, 515 Cutler’s Farm Road, Monroe (203.268.8395)
Monday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. Faith Church, 81 Clintonville Road, N Haven (203.239.2469)
Wed., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., First Church, 59 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich (203.629.9584)
Fri., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., First Church, 941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford (203.269.9100)

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

2015 ALTAR FLOWER OR MISSION CROSS ORDERS are now being received by Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net. Flowers are \$20. A donation in lieu of flowers to support missions is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar. Checks for either one payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

ACOLYTES, CROSS BEARERS AND BIBLE BEARERS WANTED! Our children and youth make a positive contribution to our worship. See or contact Noel Fino: 203.877.3005.

NEED HELP WITH YARD WORK - help around the house – snow shoveling? Joe Hotaling is available. Contact him at 203-676-3410 or JHotaling1@comcast.net.

MTM MEMBERS YAHOO GROUP: If you would like to join our MTM Members Yahoo Group to receive prayer requests and other messages relevant to our life at Mary Taylor, please follow the directions below:

1. Type <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo> in your browser
2. Log in to your Yahoo account or create a Yahoo account
3. Select the **Search Groups** box and type **MTM-members** or **Mary Taylor Memorial UMC**
4. Select **Join Group** (Note: it should take a day or two for access to be granted.)

You may also send an e-mail to: mtm-members-subscribe@yahogroups.com. For this option an e-mail will be sent back to the person making the request with a link to sign in.

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*

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 7, 2014

Order of Worship

10:00 a.m.

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

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Savior of the Nations, Come” J.S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
(Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing those items not published elsewhere.)

INTROIT “Lead Me, Lord”

*CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Mark 1, CEB

Leader: Today we journey deeper into Advent and our preparation for Christ’s coming.

People: *We hear the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son as it was written in Isaiah:*

ALL: *“Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Let us worship God.*

*HYMN #203 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Ellacombe

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(seated)* The Candle of Preparation
Elizabeth Dillon and Karen Keane

SUNG RESPONSE “People, Look East” Hymn #202, vs. 2

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

°°° *People look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

THE COLLECT *(seated, unison)*

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It can be a tense Season, O God. We prepare for the Prince of Peace but feel little peace. We prepare for a King and act like knaves. We prepare for a Wonderful Counselor and hardly listen to the counsel of your beloved Son. Grant that this worship help us be aware of our part in losing sight of “the reason for the Season.” By your power, help us to set it aright, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SILENT PRAYER AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE *The children gather at the tree*

Unison prayer: *Holy Lord, with joy we celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ; that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 40:1-11 Bible p.653

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

THE EPISTLE II Peter 3:8-15a Bible p.1109

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

THE SERMON “Mike and Eddie and Patience” Dr. Bodt

(Adapted from a story by the Rev. George Pasley, a Presbyterian pastor.)

HYMN #206 *(seated)* “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Houston

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, People: *Hear our prayer.*

***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.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Including a special offering for Milford Fuel Assistance.)

Offertory Anthem: “God Hath Spoken” G. Briggs/E. Wetherill

*Presentation: “In the Bleak Midwinter” Hymnal #221, vs. 4

*“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.”*

*THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION Adeste Fideles

L: The Lord be with you. P: *And with you, God’s servant.*

L: O Come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

P: *With hearts uplifted, thanks to God we render:*

*With joy we come before God, in gratefulness implore God,
With thankful hearts adore God, evermore!*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(pastor)* Greensleeves

*THE SANCTUS (*unison*)

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest the one who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to you!

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (*all seated, spoken by the pastor*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne most holy be your name.

Your kingdom come! Your will be done on earth - in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;

Into temptation do not lead: from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom, unto you in grateful love we bow,

And yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.

The glory yours; your praise be sung by angel hosts again

In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.

*THE COMMUNION

(The United Methodist Church observes an open table: all are welcome to receive or refrain from receiving. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.)

PRAYER FOR LAY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTORS (*unison*)

Gracious God, we remember the apostolic Church which sent representatives from the Lord's table to those unable to be present. Bless and assist these lay visitors who continue this ministry. Nourish and strengthen those to whom this sacrament is brought, that they may know the comfort of your presence and the love of this community of faith. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*RESPONSORIAL BENEDICTION

Adeste Fideles

L: The Lord bless and keep you, look with love upon you.

Be gracious, and cause your face to shine with peace!

All: *Glory to God, Son and Holy Spirit! The Savior close beside us,*

God's love from harm to hide us, the Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!

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

*POSTLUDE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

arr. by G. Young

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.