

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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD,
CHRISTMAS EVE**
December 24, 2014

**Order of Worship
11:00 p.m.**

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

PRELUDE (10:45 p.m.) Christmas selections by the Bell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE AISLE CANDLES “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

INTROIT “Immanuel/O Holy Night” M. Card/J. Althouse

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” No. 234 (*Verses 1,2,3,6*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Traditional Byzantine Christmas prayer (alt.)

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! Glory to God!*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*seated*) *Don and Mary Lou Hastings*

CAROL RESPONSE (*seated*) “Love Came Down at Christmas” No. 242

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THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT (*unison*) No. 231

*Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the World. Grant that,
being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and
likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.*

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL “*The Snow Lay on the Ground*” rear cover of insert

THE BIRTH OF JESUS St. Luke 2:1-7

CAROL “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” No. 230

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS St. Luke 2:8-14

CAROL “*Angels, We Have Heard on High*” No. 238

MARY AND THE SHEPHERDS GLORIFY GOD St. Luke 2:15-20

CAROL “*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*” No. 240

*THE WORD MADE FLESH St. John 1:1-5, 10-14

*CAROL “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*” No. 224

THE MESSAGE “Live from Bethlehem” Dr. Bodt

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*THE CHRISTMAS 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

Offertory Anthem: African Alleluia” B. Harlan

(The Adult Choir)

*Presentation: “*What Child Is This*” Hymnal #219, v.4

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.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you. P: *And also with you.*

L: Lift up your hearts. P: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. P: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

(Here the pastor gives thanks to the Lord, concluding)

L: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name in singing this carol:

*CAROL “*Joy to the World*” No. 246

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

*THE COMMUNION

(The United Methodist Church observes an open table: all are welcome to receive or refrain from receiving. We use grape juice and gluten-free bread so all may come. After the celebrants, ushers and choir commune, the ushers will direct you to one of four stations. Take the bread, dip in the cup, and eat. If you need to receive seated please notify an usher.)

*CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

Numbers 218, 219, 220, 221, 223, 229, 237

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all light, we thank you that in Jesus Christ you came to lighten our darkness. In him we find forgiveness for all that is past and a new future of meaning and purpose. May the light of Christ now shine through us so that we become a living sacrament in which your spirit is manifest. Lead us to a new life together in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The light will be passed from the Christ candle to the acolytes. They will pass it to the ushers to bring among the people. Please dip the unlit candle to receive the light.)

CAROL

“Silent Night”

No. 239

(All rise as able on the final verse, and lift your candle up.)

**Silent night, holy night, 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.*

*THE BENEDICTION

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

*POSTLUDE

“God Rest You Merry”

W. Held

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

2093 The Snow Lay on the Ground

A Christmas Eve Welcome

December 24, 2014

11 p.m.



1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, when
 2. 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh-ter pure of ho - ly Anne, that
 3. And thus that man-ger poor be-came a throne; for



Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. Ve -
 brought in - to this world the God made man. She
 he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.* Ve - ni - te a - do -
 laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the ass and ox - en
 come, then, let us join the heaven-ly host; to praise the Fa - ther,

Refrain



re - mus Do - mi - num.
 shared the roof with them. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus
 Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

*Venite adoremus Dominum = Veh-nee-teh ah-doe-reh-moos Doe-mee-noom

WORDS: Anglo-English carol (Luke 2:1-20)

MUSIC: English melody; adapt. by Charles Winfred Douglas

VENITE ADOREMUS
 10 10.10 10 with Refrain

Dear church family, friends and neighbors,

Merry Christmas to all! I trust God has blessed you this Christmas.

If you are a visitor, we thank you for being in worship with us. If you do not have a spiritual home, we invite you to consider this church and learn more about us at www.mtm-umc.org. Our active congregation welcomes and supports people of all races, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, nationalities, ethnicities, abilities and socio-economic situations.

If you are a member who has been away for a while, welcome back! May this Christmas be an opportunity to renew a vital relationship with Christ.

If you are an active member, seek out someone tonight whom you do not know and ask, "Are you new, or new to me?" May the welcome we promise be incarnate in you!

May God, who is rich in mercy, enfold us all with the love that came down at Christmas.

Christ the Savior is born!

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	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 Assist.	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

AT WORSHIP TONIGHT

Ushers – Dennis Darak, David Doyle, Stacey Riccardi and crew

Greeters – Phoebe and Jim Repetsky

Liturgists – Carol Galloway, Tom Beyer and Priscilla James

Acolytes – Olivia D’Andrea and Sarah O’Brien

Aisle Acolytes - Jamie and Tanner Georgelos **Cross Bearer** – Callie Merva

Communion stewards – Phoebe Repetsky and Joan Zauner

Communion celebrants - Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt and Carol Galloway;
the Rev. Hal V.W. Vink and Jane Vink; Dennis Darak and Lisa Darak-Druck;
and Kelly O’Hara and Leigh Bak, Co-Lay Leaders.

Musicians: The Bell and Adult Choirs; Sarah Brockett, flute; Mark Dennis and Rick Riccardi, trumpet; Brian Bodt, trombone; Lydia Smith, percussion, Mary Lou Kampert, harp.

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP please see our ushers for large print Bibles, hymnals, bulletins and hearing assist devices.

NOTICES

OUR SANCTUARY WAS DECORATED by Flo Berrien, Liz Dillon, Priscilla James, Shelly Lapadula and son Ryan Lapadula, Ann Loesch, Beth O’Brien, Shauna Paton, Rich Perregaux, Brenda and Ed Pineau, Bruce Rumford, Joan Zauner and Pastor Brian Bodt and Carol Galloway.

CHRISTMAS DAY there is no worship service but **our Community Supper will be held at 5:30 p.m.** All are welcome to join us in Dodd Hall. The church office is closed tomorrow and Friday and will reopen on Monday, December 29.

2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the rear table. Please take yours. If you do not have envelopes and desire them, e-mail Mary Lou Kampert at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

RECENT SERMONS are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY at 10 a.m. is the Wesley Covenant Service (by the Rev. John Wesley, founder of Methodism) concluding with healing anointing led by Pastor Hal. Paul Downing, Local Lay Servant Minister will preach the message “The Solution” with Beth O’Brien, liturgist. Visitation Ministry meets after worship. No Sunday School.

PASTORAL COVERAGE will be provided Dec. 25-27 by the Rev. Jim Stinson. Contact Dennis Darak at 203.874.5881 to reach Rev. Stinson. Dec. 28 – Jan. 3 is covered by the Rev. Hal V.W. Vink, 203.878.8977. Pastor Brian will be on vacation, returning to lead worship on January 4 and the office on Monday, Jan. 5, 2015.



**A
Very
Merry
Christmas,
the joy of a rich
Christmastide and
a happy and healthy
New Year to all our members,
friends and visitors; from your staff at
Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church:**

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**Rick,
Nicole,
Bruce,
Mary Lou,
Pastors Brian and Hal**