

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**  
**5:00 p.m.**

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

GATHERING MUSIC *(A time of prayer and meditation)*

PRELUDE "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" G. Young

LIGHTING OF THE AISLE CANDLES

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen! I bring you good news of great joy: Christ the Lord is born!

People: *We are happy because God's love is shown in Jesus.*

Leader: So let us sing God's praises for this wonderful news.

People: *In Jesus, everyone shall see the Lord's salvation.*

All: *O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(seated)* *The Hollyday Family*

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

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THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT *(unison)*

*O God, whose Son born in Bethlehem is the Savior of the world: be born again tonight  
in our hearts, so that as we live the love Jesus showed us, we may shed his light and all may see  
Your salvation, who is Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL "Away in a Manger" No. 217

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 MESSAGE "The Blessing Bell" Dr. Bodt  
*(A story by the Rev. Steve Burt.)*

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: "Mary Had a Baby" *The Praisemaker's 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.*

\*CAROL "The Snow Lay on the Ground" rear cover of insert

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(seated, unison)*

*O God, this is the night for giving gifts. We thank you that you already gave us the  
greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Because you first loved us, we offer these gifts with thanks to  
you, and we join with saints on earth and saints above in praying as Jesus taught:*

THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

THE GOSPEL OF LIGHT John 1:1-5, 10-14

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

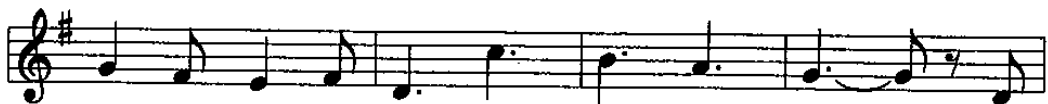
*(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).*

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

# 2093 The Snow Lay on the Ground



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

*A Christmas Eve Welcome*

*December 24, 2014*

*5 p.m.*

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](http://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](http://www.mtm-umc.org) [www.facebook.com/MTMUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC)

E-mail: [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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** –Mark and Amanda Repetsky, and Richard and Nicholas James

**Greeters** – Pat Jaser and Linda Capen

**Liturgists** – Elizabeth Repetsky and Deirdre Morro James

**Cross Bearer** – Olivia Kingston

**Acolytes** – Ryan and Sean Kingston                      **Bible Bearer** – Carolyn Hollyday

**TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP**, see our ushers for:

- Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins
- 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.

**A FESTIVAL SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS AND COMMUNION** will be held tonight. The Bell Choir plays carols at 10:45 p.m. and the formal service begins at 11 p.m. Please consider returning for this different service.

**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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net).

**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.

**RECENT SERMONS** are in the rear of the church or at [www.mtm-umc.org](http://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**