



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CHAPEL LANE!

“Growing a Faith That Must Be Shared”

Dec. 24, 2017 **Fourth Sunday of Advent/Love Sunday** 10:00 AM

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

* Please stand, if you are able

Prelude Music

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

C. Maggs

Children’s Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome, friends. We’re so glad you came to join us in our worship of God today. As we ready our hearts for worship, let us meditate on this prayer:

Dear God, As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love. Love for the unexpected challenge. Love for the vulnerable one. Love for the presence of God. Amen. (Please sign the Fellowship Pad and use the prayer request cards for your joys/concerns.)

Call to Worship *(Based on Psalm 96, Easy-to-Read Version)* **The Mayer Family**

Sing a new song to the LORD!

Let the whole world sing to the LORD!

Sing to the LORD and praise God’s name!

Tell the good news every day about how God saves us!

Tell all the nations how wonderful God is!

Tell people everywhere about the amazing things God does.

Tell all the nations that the LORD is King!

God will judge all the people with justice.

(Light the 4th Advent Candle)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be happy!

Let the sea and everything in it shout for joy!

Let the fields and everything in them be happy!

Let the trees in the forest sing for joy when they see the LORD coming!

(Sung Response: #110 vs. 3 “Love Has Come”)

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Gathering Prayer

The Mayer Family

* Gathering Song *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* #133

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen. *(Silent Prayer of Confession)*

Prayer Response *“Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me”* #71

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

* Response of Praise *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”* #143 (vs. 4)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination The Winkler Family

First Lesson **Isaiah 9:2-7** The Winkler Family

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

Carol *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* #83 (vss. 1 & 3)

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.

Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Second Lesson **Luke 2:1-7** Olivia Mayer

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

Carol "Away in a Manger" #115, (vss. 1 & 3)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in be bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Third Lesson Luke 2:8-14 The Erdmann Family

Response: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" #113 (vss. 1 & 2)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Fourth Lesson Luke 2:15-20 Pastor Rhonda

Response: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Holy Jesus Child" M. Patterson

*Rest your head, go to sleep, we will worship at your feet.
Son of God, Prince of Peace, holy Jesus Child.*

**Refrain: Christ awaits, come and see, come, behold the newborn King.
Love and joy to all he brings, holy Jesus child.**

*Angel choirs gladly sing songs of joy to welcome thee,
Watching O'er you while you dream, holy Jesus Child. Refrain.*

*Shepherds come, leave your sheep, all your worldly cares will keep.
See the babe here fast asleep, holy Jesus Child. Refrain.*

A Christmas Story Pastor Rhonda

*Carol "What Child is This?" #145

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH JOY

*Affirmation of Faith From the Confession of 1967)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man's mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Morning Prayer and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering of our Gifts

Offertory "Christmas Is Here, Sing Noel" C. Berry

**Refrain: Christmas is here, sing noel. Jesus is born, the infant King.
Lift up your voice in joyful praise. Clap your hands and sing.**

*Christmas is here, sing noel. Angels announce the Savior's birth:
"Glory to God in the highest, peace to all the earth."*

*See baby Jesus lying in a manger, this tiny child is God's own Son.
Jesus is the greatest gift of all, God's gift of love to everyone. R.*

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* Offertory Response "Doxology for Christmas" (Traditional Tune)

**Praise God, whose dawn transfigures night, whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight, the hope which to our world draws nigh. Amen.**

Thank you from the Board of Deacons for your generous gifts as we celebrate God's gift to us, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas.

Church Office Closed: The church office will be closed December 25th through December 27th for the Christmas holiday and vacation (for the Office Professional). The church office will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 28th. The church office will also be closed on Monday, January 1st for the New Year's holiday.

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Lisa McIlvenna will be our guest preacher next Sunday, December 31st. Pastor Rhonda will be on study leave.

The January Chapel Chimes is now available in your mail folders located on the back counter in the foyer. Please pick it up on your way in or out of service today to avoid using postage to mail it to you.

Followers In the Spirit Here: There is no F.I.S.H. program this Wednesday. Enjoy your Christmas holiday.

Fall Contemporary Issues Class: There is no class December 24th or 31st. We will resume class on January 7th discussing Chapter 10 of *How Jesus Saves the World From Us: 12 Antidotes to Toxic Christianity*.

Lectionary-Based Class: The Lectionary-based class will not meet again until Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the library. We hope you will consider joining us.

The Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: There is no study this week. We will start a new study on The Minor Prophets on January 4, 2018 at 1 p.m. See Pastor Rhonda for a copy of the study guide.

No PW Lunch: The PW luncheon will be cancelled this month due to the Christmas holiday. We will meet again in January.

MS Bike and Walk Event Success-Thanks for Your Support: Many Thanks to all our friends at Chapel Lane for your support of our campaigns for multiple sclerosis this year. Together the DOW/TCC Bike and Dow Walk teams raised \$103,449. This included a \$15,000 grant from the R. M. Gerstacker Foundation which helps fund the MS Society's Direct Assistance program. Our heartfelt gratitude for helping us provide support for those with MS.
Helen Myers and Ed Rightor

The Monday Evening Circle will not meet in January due to the New Year holiday. If you have any questions, call Alice Wiltse at 631-7271.

Taize Service: Please note that our January Taize Service will be held on the second Wednesday rather than the first Wednesday. Join us January 10th at 7 p.m. in the Activity Room for a candlelit service of prayer and simple melodies.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – Today through Jan 7, 2018

Dinner on Christmas Day will be served on **Monday, December 25, at St. John's Lutheran Church** at 505 East Carpenter in Midland from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The free turkey dinner, with all the traditional trimmings, will begin after the 10 a.m. worship service that is offered to anyone who wishes to come. Arrangements may be made for transportation to the Christmas Day Service and/or the dinner, as well as for delivered meals. **Please call 835-5861, extension 1225 by December 20 for transportation or meal delivery.**

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rhonda Myers
Musicians: Karen Graef, Dr. Tim Hendrickson
Worship Leader: Our Church Families
Ushers: Alice Wiltse, Carol Rowe, Zachary Hahn, Roger Hahn
Nursery: Renee White, Jennifer Hahn, Sarah Hahn
Ministers: *All the members of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church*

Our Mission Statement

Celebrating our diversity of gifts, we seek to serve Christ by serving others with grace, love and laughter.

Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church

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Church e-mail: Office@chapellane.org Website: www.chapellane.org

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| <i>Dir. Christian Ed.:</i> | <i>Erica Clark</i> | <i>education@chapellane.org</i> |
| <i>Director of Music:</i> | <i>Karen Graef</i> | <i>music@chapellane.org</i> |
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| | <i>Linda Lanørrill</i> | |