

First Sunday of Advent

***Deep Run East Mennonite Church
December 1, 2013***

DEEP RUN EAST MENNONITE CHURCH

“Bringing people in contact with God”

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, with prayer as our foundation,
we at DRE envision a community of faith that will glorify God in worship, open our
lives to our community, and share our gifts and resources
in faithfulness to Jesus Christ.*

Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Advent 1 . . . in our present!

Inviting the Mystery

Pre-service

Katrina & Phil Rice

Silence

Prayer

Ruth Cosand

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord;

People: let us learn God’s ways.

Leader: God’s instruction goes out from Zion;

People: God’s word from Jerusalem.

Leader: Let us awake to hope:

People: the salvation of our God is near.

All: O, the mystery of God’s dwelling in our present!

Congregational Song

“Bless’d be the God of Israel”

HWB #174

Garry Rice

Engaging the Mystery

Confession and lighting the Advent Wreath

Jeanne Dobron

Congregational Response:

In this light, we receive forgiveness,

knowing that God dwells with us in the present.

Children’s Time

Missy Camilleri

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14
(Pages 484 & 804 in the pew bible)

Phil Rice

Congregational Sharing Time and Prayer

Congregational Song “Christ is the World’s True Light” HWB #334

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon Ken Burkholder
“Does Anybody Know What Time it Is?”

Song of Response “God of Grace and God of Glory” HWB #366

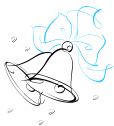
Offering / Offertory Karissa & Phil Rice
“Still, Still, Still” as arranged by Melody Bober
(Guests, please fill out the welcome card and place in the offering.)

Year of the Bible Update Duane Bishop

Sending Song “Come! Walk in the Light” Insert

Benediction

“O, the Mystery of God’s Dwelling!” is our worship theme for Advent this year. As we come into the presence of God for worship this season, may we invite, engage, and celebrate the mystery that is God’s dwelling in all of its varied and surprising ways. May we prepare for and anticipate Christmas – the mystery of Christ making His home with humanity. “The Word became flesh and lived among us.” - John 1:14



Congratulations to Bryan & Ashley (Hackman) Clark who were married Friday, November 29th.

Address: 3851 Ashland Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438

IT BEGS THE QUESTION

The Nativity of Christ is based in the icon tradition of early Christian art. While most elements in this artwork easily correlate with modern nativity arrangements - angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, the Christ child, the star, and the stable animals, there are a few key features in this particular image that are worth explaining and a few that are notably different.

In the top right corner an angel proclaims the "good news" of Christ's birth to a lowly shepherd. Note the staff held by the angel signifying heavenly authority to carry this message directly from God. Two angels, opposite, bend in praise and adoration over the newborn King. Why are their hands draped with cloths? Here is a very ancient custom whereby any common person who received an audience with a king was required to cover his/her hands, thus sparing the king the unpleasant experience of seeing the calloused, dirty hands of a working class individual. In this instance, it signals to the viewer that the baby is royalty. We also see a second shepherd playing flute in adoration.

Christ's ultimate mission of dying for the salvation of the world are hinted at: swaddling cloths that resemble grave cloths, a cross filled halo, and a lamb reminding us of John the Baptist's words, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

But the heart of The Nativity of Christ is the scene playing out between Mary, Joseph and the old man in the shaggy coat kneeling in front of Joseph. Note that neither Mary nor Joseph gazes in amazement at the miracle God-child as a modern nativity would portray them. Instead, we see Mary quietly focused on her husband, who is seemingly engaged in an interaction with the old man. What's going on here? That old man is God's adversary, Satan, ever so gently planting the seed of doubt in Joseph. He asks, "Do you really want to get involved with this Mary and her baby? Why not quietly divorce yourself from them?" Mary watches and waits for Joseph's answer.

Joseph represents each of us - each of us must face doubt and answer the question, "Do you really want anything to do with this baby?" Mary often represents the church in icon art - Christ's church watches and waits for our answer . . . as does Christ himself. - Michelle L Hofer, artist

Guests! - We are glad to have you here for worship today. We trust that you will encounter God's presence, as you worship with us. Please know you are welcome to worship with us again!

Sunday School Hour – 10:15 am
Classes for all ages – Nursery through adult

Next week is the second week of Advent. Pastor Brent Camilleri will be preaching on the Advent theme, “*O, The Mystery of God’s Dwelling, in our Relationships.*” The sermon title will be, “***The Mystery of God...in US!***”, based on scripture texts, Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13.

Today, December 1st Leadership Board representative, **Wendy Leatherman**, will be in the downstairs preschool classroom between the service and Sunday school hour to speak with anyone wishing to discuss questions, concerns, or dreams for DRE.

Nursery attendants: Today – Sandy & Gwen Gemmell
Next week – Kate Gohl & Alyssa Burkholder

Greeters: Today – Norm & Mabel Myers, Dave & Kelly Rice
Lee & Connie Crouthamel
Next week – Henry & Darla Rice, Clyde & Libby Hestand
Joe & Char Myers

Prayer room (*between the worship service and Sunday school*):
Today – Barb Hackman Next week – Phil Nyce

The 2014 Year of the Bible packets were distributed to the congregation during the worship service, which included the book, *The Story*, highlighting the **2014 Year of the Bible: Feasting on God's Word**. If you were not here to receive your packet or if you are interested in participating in the 2014 Year of the Bible with DRE extra packets are available in the back vestibule area and in the front of the church by the piano.



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Last Sunday

Attendance: Worship Service - 188 Sunday school – 138

Offering: Budget Receipts – \$ 4,621.60 E-tithing Offering: \$ 1,520.00
Total Budget Offering: \$ 6,141.60

Piano Offering: \$200.00