



O, the Mystery of God's Dwelling!

Third Sunday of Advent

***Deep Run East Mennonite Church
December 15, 2013***

Congregational Song “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” HWB #201

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon “*Seeking Joy this Christmas?*” Ken Burkholder

Song of Response “Joy to the World” HWB #318

Offering / Offertory Brass Ensemble
(Guests, please fill out the welcome card and place in the offering.)

Congregational Song “Come! Walk in the Light” in pocket of HWB
or on pews

“Christmas Questions”

Presented by
Children of Deep Run Mennonite Church East.

**All are welcome to enjoy coffee and refreshments in the
fellowship hall following the children’s program.**

“*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

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!*

Next week is the fourth week of Advent. Pastor Ken Burkholder will be preaching on the Advent theme, "*O, The Mystery of God's Dwelling, in the child that is born!*" The sermon title will be, "***Christ...in the Mess,***" based on scripture text, Matthew 1:18-25.

Nursery attendants: **Today** – Wendy & Lauren Leatherman
Next week – Eileen Radeschi & Olivia Gemmell

Greeters: **Today** – Bob & Kathy Moyer, Dean & Kathy Myers
Dalton & Mae Kulp
Next week – Rich & Jeanette Baum, Dalton & Mae Kulp
Esther Leatherman & Grace Leatherman

Prayer room (*between the worship service and Sunday school*):
Today – Duane Bishop **Next week** – Janet Ruster

(You are also invited to submit a prayer request/praise on the prayer cards in the pews and place in the prayer box in the mailbox foyer area)



Tina Yunger was transferred from Jefferson Hospital to Peter Becker.

Last Sunday

Attendance: Worship Service - 187 Sunday school – 151

Offering: Budget Receipts – \$ 9,952.75 E-tithing Offering: \$ 1,520.00

Total Budget Offering: \$ 11,472.75

Scholarship: \$25.00

Thank You

Thanks to the Christmas carolers who came sing for Mom (Anna Rice) and for the fruit basket as well. The picture of the youth group is now tacked up on Mom's bulletin board. May God bless all who were involved. *The Rice family*

Thank you all so much for all the prayers, cards, and visits that I received while I was in the hospital and at home. Also thank you for the beautiful plant. Your love and caring spirit is deeply felt." *Ed Wyse*

Thank you to my church family for the many cards, prayers, visits and flowers while I was in the hospital. I also want to give thanks to the DRE carolers and the beautiful fruit.
May God bless you all, *Alverda Rice*

We would like to thank you our church family for the lovely poinsettia. Thanks to the MYF for the fruit basket and caroling for us. We appreciated it very much. We want to wish you a Merry Christmas. Thanks for your prayers and keep on praying. We have a Great God.
May God bless you all, *Norman & Pearl Freed*

Thank you to my church family for the caroling and nice poinsettia plant.
Clayton Myers



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