



*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Deep Run East Mennonite Church  
December 22, 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 4. . . in the child that is born!***

**Inviting the Mystery**

Pre-service Carol Palermo

Silence

Prayer Barb Hackman

Call to Worship

Leader: Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son!

**People: Let us awake to joy!**

Leader: He shall be called “God is with us,”

**People: and will refuse evil and choose good.**

Leader: God gives us a sign:

***All: O, the mystery of God’s dwelling in the child that is born!***

Congregational Song Youth Worship Team  
“What Child is This” HWB #215

**Engaging the Mystery**

Confession and lighting the Advent Wreath  
Dave & Colleen Bolks

**People: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness,  
knowing that God dwells in the child that is born.**

Special Music Chimes Choir  
Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah - arr. Tucker

Children’s Time Ruth Hohenstein

Scripture Reading                      Matthew 1:18-25                      Kate Kulp  
(Page 681 in the pew bible)

Congregational Song    “O Little Town of Bethlehem”                      HWB #191

Congregational Sharing and Pastoral Prayer

**Celebrating the Mystery**

Sermon                      “*Christ...in the Mess*”                      Ken Burkholder

Congregational Song    “To Us a Child of Hope is Born”                      HWB #189

Mennonite Mission Network video clip

Offering

*(Guests, please fill out the welcome card and place in the offering.)*

Offertory-Special Music                      Alyssa & Karen Burkholder  
“Breath of Heaven” – Grant/Eaton

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

“*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



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# 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 First Sunday after Christmas. Jake Bongiovanni will be preaching on the theme, "*O, The Mystery of God's Dwelling, in our distress!*" based on scripture text, Hebrews 2:10-18.

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**Nursery attendants:** **Today** – Eileen Radeschi & Olivia Gemmell  
**Next week** – Henry Rice & Kimberly Rice

**Greeters:** **Today** – Rich & Jeanette Baum, Dalton & Mae Kulp  
Esther Leatherman & Grace Leatherman

**Next week** – Harvey & Anna Meyers, Evelyn Nuneviller,  
Dale & Janet Ruster

**Prayer room** (*between the worship service and Sunday school*):

**Today** – Janet Ruster    **Next week** – Ruthie Swartley

(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)

*Thank you* to our MYF and church family for the Christmas caroling, lovely fresh fruit and beautiful poinsettia. Seeing you was a gift that gave us a lot of joy!    *The DRE residents at Rockhill Community*

*Thank you* to whomever gave us the beautiful fruit basket.  
*Elmer & Alice Detweiler*

*Thank you* to our MYF and church family for inviting our family to go Christmas caroling and join you in singing and for the fruit basket.  
*Paul, Arlene and Brian Miller*

**Pastor Brent Camilleri** and family will be traveling during the Christmas week and will return Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - *Christmas Eve Service*** will be at 7:00 pm. There will be a service of lessons and carols, variety of special music, a children's time and candle lighting. Come and worship our newborn King, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this meaningful service of worship.

Our **Christmas Eve Offering** will be given to *Mennonite Mission Network*. At Mennonite Mission Network, the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA, we listen not only to God's call, but also to calls from international partners who ask us to help them in training leaders, planting churches, nurturing faith commitments, and engaging together with the local culture.

**Greeters for Christmas Eve:**

Jerry & Karen Detweiler, Duane & Pat Bishop, Elmer & Alice Detweiler

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Dear Deep Run Church East,

There are no words to express all of our gratitude for your support. Sending teams to serve in Honduras, sending financial donations, supporting the Ebenezer school, and now supporting children in need through "Children Without Choices." Your love for others is evident through your actions. Thank you for your recent donation towards our general fund and Ebenezer. Because of donations like yours we can continue our child survival programs.

Thank you, *Amanda Sagastum*, Program Coordinator

**Last Sunday**

Attendance: Worship Service - 232

Offering: Budget Receipts – \$ 6,181.79 E-tithing Offering: \$ 1,520.00

**Total Budget Offering: \$ 7,701.79**

**Other Offerings: Piano: \$300.00 Pennridge FISH: \$40.00**