



Deep Run East Mennonite Church

December 29, 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.

“O, the Mystery of God’s Dwelling...in our distress!”

Inviting the Mystery

Pre-service

Rice Family

Silence

Call to Worship

Eric Rice

Leader: Come before the one made perfect in suffering.

People: Let us awake to birth of our Savior,

Leader: the one who calls us brothers and sisters,

People: the one who helps in times of testing!

Leader: The pioneer of our salvation goes before us:

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

Congregational Singing

Cleon Hackman

“O Come, All ye Faithful”

HWB #212

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

HWB #201

Engaging the Mystery

Moment in Mission – Christmas Greetings from Kyrgyzstan

Children’s Time

Kate Gohl

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18
(Page 846-847 in the pew bible)

Olivia Gemmell

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon

Jake Bongiovanni

“O The Mystery of God’s Dwelling...in our distress”

Special Music Sarah Detweiler, Soloist
“Be Born In Me” by Francesca Battistelli Carol Palermo, Piano

Congregational Song Cleon Hackman
“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” GHF #99

Offering/Offertory Katrina Rice
“For Unto Us A Child is Born” as arranged by Mark Hayes
(*Guests, please fill out the welcome card and place in the offering.*)

Year of the Bible Update Don Nice

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

Benediction

“*O, the Mystery of God’s Dwelling!*” is our worship theme for Advent/Christmas 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. So let us proclaim the mystery that fills the house of the Lord—*Christ is born!* “The Word became flesh and lived among us.” - John 1:14

Advent Artwork – Painting in front of Sanctuary

Our beautiful Advent artwork was recreated by Ruth Hohenstein to go along with our advent theme, “*O, the Mystery of God’s Dwelling!*”

Pastor Ken, and his family, are in Lancaster this weekend for family Christmas celebrations. They will be returning later this evening.

Pastor Brent, and his family, are away this weekend for family Christmas celebrations. They will be returning later this evening.

We are grateful to have Jake Bongiovanni bringing the sermon here this morning! Jake is well-known to many of you, as he has been a part of the Deep Run East congregation for a number of years. He is the son of Mike & Michelle Bongiovanni, and is currently a senior at Millersville University, majoring in secondary math education.

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 our Year-of –the-Bible Kick-off Sunday! Our theme scripture verse for the month of January, as is our theme verse for the year will be Jeremiah 15:16 “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.” Please plan to come for this worship service, of celebration which will include – a children’s time, communion/blessing for children, and a special hand out. There will also be a prayer of blessing/sending for our January MAMA Team.

Ken Burkholder will be preaching on the sermon title, “Let the Journey Begin!” based on scripture texts, Matthew 2:1-12 and Jeremiah 15:16 (NRSV).

Thank you to for the poinsettia plant from church, the fruit basket and the caroling by the MYF. It was very much appreciated.

Mary Leatherman

Thank you so much for the Christmas carolers and the fruit basket and for the beautiful poinsettia.

Marvin & Esther Detweiler

Thank you to the MYF for the caroling and fruit basket and to my church family for the poinsettia.

Wilson Leatherman

Thank you to our MYF for the fruit basket and the church family for the caroling and poinsettia plant.

Harvey and Anna Meyers

Thank you to our the DRE church for your prayers, cards and flowers that were sent while I was in recovery from knee surgery. Everything is going well.

Norm Trauger

Nursery attendants: **Today** – Henry Rice & Kimberly Rice
Next week – Ruth Hohenstein & Alyssa Burkholder

Greeters: **Today** – Harvey & Anna Meyers,
Evelyn Nuneviller, Mary Emma Detweiler
Dale & Janet Ruster
Next week – Howard & Dolores Bryan, Louise Moyer & Rhonda Moyer
Lee & Connie Crouthamel

Prayer room (*between the worship service and Sunday school*):
Today – Ruthie Swartley **Next week** – Ken Burkholder

(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)

Next Week, January 5th Leadership Board representative, **Kate Kulp**, 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.

January Preaching Schedule:

January 5 Ken Burkholder
January 12 Ken Burkholder
January 19 Ken Burkholder
January 26 Brent Camilleri

DEEP RUN EAST MENNONITE CHURCH

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Last Sunday

Attendance: Worship Service – 225 Sunday school: 141

Christmas Eve: 246

Offering: Budget Receipts – \$ 7,987.00 E-tithing Offering: \$ 1,520.00

Total Budget Offering: \$ 9,507.00

Elders Fund: \$500.00