

**Chambersburg Church of the Brethren**  
**Christmas Eve Service- December 24, 2011**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Gathering**

Live Nativity

Organ Recital Carol Burkholder

Organ Prelude *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Carol Burkholder

Welcome Pastor Daniel

**\*Call To Worship**

One: Good friends throughout the earth, come and listen!  
 For a star has risen in the east and a great promise has  
 been given to all people.

**All: For though we have walked in darkness, we see a  
 great light.**

One: Angels are visiting, bringing messages of joy that confound  
 expectations and silence despair.

**All: For we will call him Immanuel, and in Christ's  
 presence we will know that God is with us every day.**

One: Come now, hear and sing the songs of celebration. For  
 the day is near when the voices of angels will ring through  
 all God's creation. Let us sing our song, with and to God,  
 today.

\*Hymn *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* #192

Scripture Reading Luke 2:10b-11

*Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great  
 joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a  
 Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Lighting the Advent Candles Tharp Family

Invocation Tharp Family

**Call**

Dramatic Interpretation<sup>1</sup> *Mary and the Angel*  
*-Wild Goose Worship Group*

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38

**Confession**

Special Music *Breath of Heaven* Darla Tharp

\*Confession (Unison) Back of Bulletin

\*Assurance of pardon

\*Affirmation of faith (Unison) Back of Bulletin

\*Hymn *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* #188

Special Music *Away in a Manger* Children's Choir

**Response**

Prayer

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #196

Scripture Reading Psalm 130

Special Music<sup>2</sup> *O Holy Night!*

Meditation *The Song Made Flesh* Pastor Daniel

**Celebration**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-8

Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night* #206

**Sharing the light**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20

\*Hymn *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* #181

\*Benediction

\*Postlude *For Unto Us a Child is Born*

*\*Please extinguish your candles carefully during the Postlude*

<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Snider & Nicholas Wingert

<sup>2</sup> Darla Tharp, Natalie Strickler, Jennifer Snider, Andria Statler, &  
 The Youth Group

\*Confession (Unison)

**Loving Lord, Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. We have been lukewarm disciples. We have been short in zeal for your righteousness and love. Instead of letting our voices cry out in the wilderness, our cries have been weak and halfhearted. Instead of proclaiming the gospel with conviction, we have shrugged and stammered. Instead of clothing ourselves in humility and faith, we have put on power and prestige. Instead of giving you the glory, we have puffed ourselves up with pride. Forgive us, O God. Transform us for authentic and wholehearted discipleship.**

\*Assurance of pardon

**The love of God is wider than our sight; God's grace is more wonderful than we can sing, and Christ comes to bring us our salvation. In Christmas we celebrate the new birth of not only Mary's child, but of hope for all creation. This is the Word born for us.**

\*Affirmation of faith (Unison)

**Everpresent God, in the darkness of Mary's womb, the holy child grows. In the darkness of the world's pain, the blessed light begins to kindle. In the darkness of our own doubting of you and our lack of faith in ourselves, the great hope begins to rise again like a lump in the throat. Christ will be born again into our world and into us. We praise you, O God, for invading our darkness, and inviting us into your light. By your grace, this light shines from Bethlehem, and gives promise to all the earth.**

\*Hymn

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

#188