

One: When our wealth causes others to go hungry,

All: Forgive us, O God.

Help us, your servants - according to the promises you have made.

Hymn: *Unexpected and mysterious* (see insert)

Hearing the Word

Hymn: STS 16 – *Love before us*

Time for Children

Penny Russell

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 80:1-7

Dwight Miyake

Luke 1:39-45

Saundra Plett

Congregational response:

One: For the Word of God in Scripture,

All: For the Word of God among us;

For the Word of God within us;

Thanks be to God.

Message: **God's Time**

Cynthia Lapp

Hymn: STS 124 – *My soul cries out*

Responding

Responses to the Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Praying Together

Hymn: *Sanctuary Song*

The Work of the Church

Greeting our Guests

Announcements

The Ministry of Giving

Children's Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Sending

Hymn: HWB 185 – *Hail to the Lord's anointed*

Benediction

*written by Harry Disher: <https://www.united-church.ca/worship>

**written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith: <https://spaciousfaith.com/>

TODAY

Greeter: Peter Goering

Ushers: Brad Leissa, Dorothy Leissa

Nursery: Wyatt Feeler, Jeanette Stoltzfus

Worship Arts: David Conrad

NEXT WEEK

Jake Short

Amy Whittington

Elena Zehr, Mike Zehr

Jake Short

TREASURER'S REPORT

Offering Last Week – \$8,628

Advent Offering – \$2,458

Weekly Goal – \$5,863

Attendance Last Week – 118

Lectionary scripture for next Sunday, December 30:

I Samuel 2:18-26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

CALENDAR

Sun. 12/24—Christmas Eve service, 5:00 p.m. (see announcement).

Sun. 12/30—Christmas I; Michelle Burkholder preaches.

Sun. 1/6—Epiphany; Michelle Burkholder preaches.

Mon. 1/7—Community Café (see announcement).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service: On December 24 at 5:00 p.m., we will hold our annual Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols! This service is full of music and Scripture as we gather together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Poinsettias Available: The poinsettias up front will be available to purchase following the Christmas Eve service. They will be \$10; exact change is preferred, or you can write a check.

Out of the Office for the Holidays: Cindy Lapp will be out of the office, but available Dec. 25-27, and then gone Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Michelle Burkholder will be gone Dec. 25-27.

Pre-Worship Fellowship Time, Dec. 30: There will be no Sunday School on December 30. Instead, at 10:00 a.m. in the HMC Fellowship Hall, all ages are welcome to gather for a time of informal fellowship and treats before church.

Community Café, January 7, 2019: HMC is scheduled to serve at Community Café on Monday, January 7, 2019. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer, or contact Jake Short for more information. Thank you for taking time to helping those less fortunate in our community during this busy holiday season.

Advent & Christmas Announcements

Advent Worship Arts: The worship visuals during this Advent season focus on the theme of *nurture in the journey* as chosen by HMC Council and Pastorate for the year. The journeys of Mary and Joseph, and the wise ones are familiar to us. We are conscious of the many people who undertake perilous journeys to escape danger, such as the caravan of migrants from Central America. Some journeys are physical or geographical in nature; some encompass a route to spiritual change or transformational justice. What visually represents nurture in such journeys? The cloth draped from the arched support beams conveys the shelter of a tent over our heads as we gather together, providing a nurturing space for reflection and support. The banners express a night sky thick with stars, which in the ever-darkening days of mid-winter in the northern hemisphere, might provide illumination, inspiration or direction.

Advent/Christmas Offering: Our Advent/Christmas offering will go to our work with DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network, an interfaith network of congregations in the DC/MD/VA region that provides support and solidarity to neighbors, friends, and family who fear being detained, deported or profiled. In the face of hate and discrimination, our faith calls us to show love, compassion and hospitality. A primary focus for the Network is Deportation Defense. This includes advocacy, community organizing, fundraising, family support, media outreach and communications. Network members accompany people to ICE check-ins, legal hearings and congressional visits; hold Defend Your Rights trainings; host people who are at risk of deportation; support congregations that are hosting; and press cities and states to get ICE out of schools, jails and courts and to end all policies that racially profile and over-incarcerate people of color. As an active member of the Network, HMC has already contributed significant time and energy to these activities. We are also called on to raise financial support for the Network's activities. **HMC has a goal of raising \$5,000 through our Advent offering to support this work.** The DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network needs to raise an additional \$50,000 in the next two months to hire one more part-time organizer. Thus, besides our congregational offering, we also invite anyone who may be interested in this cause to reach out to your personal networks to invite them to donate via an online giving platform here: <https://give.faithinaction.org/team/DMV>. Please contact Doris Bartel or Cindy Lapp if you have questions.

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