

Welcome to



December 24, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Weekly Worship at 8:30 and at 10:30 a.m.
And online anytime on YouTube/Morrow Church

600 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, NJ 07040
morrowchurch.org

A profound word of gratitude to Essex Funk Collective
Jonathan Glasser – guitar, Steve Feldman – drummer,
Lawrence Allen – keyboards, Brian Swisher – bass, Faith Taylor – vocals,
Kiyomi Taylor – vocals, Nigel Finley - vocals
Norman Burns – vocals, Kenny Vaughan – vocals

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here at Morrow Church.
As a diverse community we seek to be a nurturing place
that celebrates the sacred worth of every person.
We celebrate every race, skin color, differing learning styles and abilities,
married, single, divorced, male, female, gay, straight, transgender,
in sickness and in health, old, young, crying infant or restless adolescent.
If you believe in God some of the time or none of the time
or all of the time, you are welcome.
Come with your gifts, your struggles, your hopes and your fears.
Your presence here is a gift to this community.*

MORROW
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE AT 7PM

Gathering Music

Dr. Holland Jancaitis
Director of Music Ministries, Morrow Church

Greeting

Call to Worship

Tonight, the messages of the angels are heard.

Fear not, for you are not alone,

Tonight, the messages of the angels are heard.

You will give birth to something brand new.

Tonight the messages of the angels are heard

Dare to travel another road.

Tonight the messages of the angels are heard.

Tonight we hear the words, a Savior is born.

Opening Song

O Come All Ye Faithful (insert)

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Christmas Eve Prayer: Holy child of Bethlehem, you are the hope of the world, the song of the angels, the longing of our hearts, the goodness of our lives, and the glory of God among us. Call us to worship in the places where your love is born anew: wherever kindness prevails, wherever fairness flourishes, and wherever peace reigns through your world and within your people. In his precious name we pray, Amen.

Scripture - John 1 selected verses In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word and without the Word nothing came into being. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Special Music

Song of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Scripture - Luke 2.1-14 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went

to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, '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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^{*} praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

Special Music

Angels We Have Heard On High

Special Reading

Rev. Janice Lynn

Special Music

O Holy Night

Scripture - Luke 2.15-20 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Spreading God's Light

Silent Night (see insert)

Scripture

Isaiah 9.6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Benediction

Special Music

Joy to the World

Merry Christmas!

Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;

round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 glor - ies stream from heav-en a - far, heav-enly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

Morrow Friends,
Is there a gift for our church under your tree?
 As we plan and shop for the holidays and patiently await the inbreaking of God's hope, peace, joy, and love, will you remember all the church means to you?
 Your help is needed. We need \$50k to close out the year strong. We have done so much good work and we want God's good work to continue. And we want to start the year in a strong financial position.
 Please make your gift by Dec 31. Thank you.

Scan here to make a gift

O come, all ye faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 lea - ving their flocks, draw nigh with low - ly fear;
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove;
 Je - su, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;

come and be - hold him born the king of an - gels:
 we too will thi - ther bend our joy - ful foot - steps:
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
 word of the fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

O come, let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O

come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



Christmas Poinsettias

Given By	Dedication
The Jerger Family	In memory of Bettye Yates In memory of Betty Roe
The Niles Family	In honor of Michael Fitzgerald
The Schafer Family	In memory of Jimmy Rollston In memory of our Parents In memory of Our Morrow's Friends who passed
Kris & Nicole Hubert	In memory of Bunny Woloszczak In memory of Mary Robbins
Sarah Wilson & Evelyn Wilson Brown	In memory of Mel and Cristine Wilson In honor of Kathy Wilson
Dorothy Wetzel & Dan Sugarman	In memory of Diane, Marion, Charles Wetzel and Michael Sugarman
Matt & Kathy Finch	In memory of James and Alice Finch, Miklos and Maria Leovey, and Mrs. W.J. Finch
Matt & Kathy Finch	In loving memory of our daughter, Abbey



Christmas Poinsettias

Given By	Dedication
Jonathan Simmons and Sheila Kenny	In honor of Barbara and David Simmons In honor of Anita Simmons
Kyoko Kondo and Family	In memory of Shigeo Kondo In memory of Mariko Kondo
The Petrallia Family Janet Painter	In memory of David George Moran In memory of Richard Painter In memory of Ruth Just In memory of Stephanie Bob
Fred and Susan Profeta	In memory of Fred R. Profeta Sr and Lynn V. Profeta
John & Linda James	In memory of Charlotte V. Knighton In memory of Annie Shouse Davenport In memory of John William James, Jr In memory of Deborah Charles
Heacock Family	In memory of Mike Taylor In memory of Ralph Heacock