



Clarksburg United Methodist Church
23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland
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Accompanist: Rick Beede
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July 27, 2025

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

9:30 am

GATHERING, PRELUDE,
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH PRAYERS

CALL TO WORSHIP

MLT (alt dwh)

God who dwells in the mystery of life

Fill us with wonder as we traipse around your world.

Christ who offers kindness and mercy

Fill us with understanding in our dealings

as we meet strangers, enemies, and friends.

Spirit who delivers dreams to us

Draw us into your visions of love for our neighbors.

OPENING HYMN / CAROL **O Come, All Ye Faithful** **234**

FIRST LESSON **from Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19** **Gary**

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

SECOND LESSON **from Genesis 22: 15–18** **Gary**

God promises to faithful Abraham that
in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

HYMN / CAROL **Blessed Be the God of Israel** **209**

THIRD LESSON **from Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7** **Ann**

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

FOURTH LESSON **from Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9** **Ann**

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

HYMN / CAROL **It Came upon the Midnight Clear** **218**

FIFTH LESSON **from the Gospel of Luke 1: 26–35; 38** **Charity**

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

SIXTH LESSON **from Luke 2: 1; 3–7** **Charity**

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN / CAROL **Silent Night, Holy Night** **239**

SEVENTH LESSON **from Luke 2: 8–16** **Bonnie**

The shepherds go to the manger.

HYMN / CAROL **Angels from the Realms of Glory** **220**

EIGHTH LESSON **from the Gospel of Matthew 2: 1–12** **Bonnie**

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY **95**

PRAYER

MLT

We take these days in the warmth of summertime
to remember the birth of the Christ.
We take time away from the consumerist holiday
to celebrate the holy aspects of Christmas.
May this day remind us of the mirth of Jesus' birth
and the love of Jesus which still ripples in our world.
May we spend these next few months until Christmas
with the joy of rebirth in our hearts,
sharing that excitement with our neighbors around us.

Amen.

NINTH LESSON from the Gospel of John 1: 1-14 Dave
St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

HYMN / CAROL Go, Tell It on the Mountain 251

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING *alt from Rev. Kenneth Tanner*
May you may have many reminders of the Resurrection.
May you have many reminders of the Incarnation.
Watch for them,
as you go out to Love God, by serving your neighbors.
Amen

POSTLUDE

Bulletin Credits: Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (*dwh*)
or *That which is by others is used with permission.*
via Discipleship Ministries (**GBoD**), from the Worship Website.
 <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>
or from Feasting on the Word (eg **FotW** – see also insert)
or Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, (MLT) at <https://michelletorigian.com/>
or authors who have posted with Presbyterian Outlook (eg **PO**)
 This week the author is Stephanie Sorge
or other sources as noted.



And she gave birth
to her firstborn, a son. She
wrapped him in cloths and
placed him in a manger.

Luke 2:7

CLARKSBURG
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

*As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary
Not Christmas Readings*

Year C – After Pentecost – July 27, 2025

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Scriptures

Semicontinuous	Hosea 1:2–10	Psalm 85
or Complementary	Genesis 18:20–32	Psalm 138
Both	Colossians 2:6–19	Luke 11:1–13

Questions for Reflection:

This week's lectionary texts all say that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were arrogance, excess food and leisure, injustice and inhospitality, and not helping the poor and oppressed.

Why do you think rich and powerful church leaders in the Middle Ages and in modern times went against the Bible and taught that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was "homosexuality" (a word not invented until the late nineteenth century)?

Morning Prayer: *Gen. 18:1–5; Matt. 10:42*

God, as this new day begins, I imagine Abraham
sitting in the shade under his oak tree when
you appeared to him in the form of three strangers
and he offered them hospitality.

Help me to see opportunities to extend hospitality
to those in need today, even if it's as small a gesture
as offering someone a cup of cold water. Amen.

Evening Prayer: *Luke 11:9, 13*

I return to you, God, as this day ends.
I am grateful for all that you have given me,
all that I have found,
and all the doors that were opened to me.
As for those prayers that seem as yet unanswered,
I leave them with you for now
and turn to my rest in the gift of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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