



Bethany United Methodist Church

1860 Hayer Road
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Christmas Eve, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Dr. Rudy Shackelford, organist

PRELUDE *"Sing We Now of Christmas": Variations on a Noël* (Theme and Variations 1-7)
Macel Dupré (1886-1971)

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

the White family

*CHRISTMAS CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Verses 1,3,6) UMH, no. 234

*OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S CAROLS

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Jingle Bells
Silent Night

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Look to the Rose Joseph Martin
Every Valley
Carol of Remembrance

SINGING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sing We Now of Christmas UMH, No. 237
The Friendly Beasts UMH, No. 227
Go, Tell it on the Mountain UMH, No. 251

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

MESSAGE

A Christmas Miracle Rev. Steve Young

CHRISTMAS CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH, No. 230

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Variations on a Noël (Nos. 8 & 9) Marcel Dupré

*DOXOLOGY

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

O Come, Let Us Adore Him!
O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ The Lord!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATION'S CANDLES

*CHRISTMAS CAROL *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH, No. 239

*BENEDICTION

*DISMISSAL CHORUS

Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

POSTLUDE *Variations on a Noël* (No. 10 – Fugato) Marcel Dupré

*Congregation to stand

Merry Christmas!

The pastor and staff of Bethany UMC send our prayers that God may bless each of you with a Christmas holiday filled with love, joy, and peace.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed the remainder of this week. While the pastor is away, you may reach him on his cell phone (832-0979), or for immediate assistance please call Rev. Bob Justis (757-880-0015), Chaplain Carol Johnson (757-273-1482), or associate Lay Leader Roy Bauschatz (642-6340).

Acolytes: Trip Vaughan, Will Neikirk, Tristan Reynolds, Ashley Reynolds, and Austin White.

NOTE ON THE ORGAN MUSIC

Frenchman Marcel Dupré is universally esteemed as the greatest organist of modern times, perhaps second only to Johann Sebastian Bach in the annals of an instrument invented before the birth of Christ. In 1922 Dupré performed all of Bach's organ works from memory in ten concerts – an unprecedented artistic and intellectual triumph – and also created the magnificent *Variations on a Noël*, which established his reputation as a composer of extremely virtuosic music.

But this is no emptyheaded showpiece, for Dupré modelled his variations upon the supreme example of the genre, Bach's "*Goldberg*" *Variations*, where freely invented pieces alternate with those in strict canon according to a highly intricate design. Far from being a dry academic exercise, however, Dupré's ten variations mesmerize the listener with a rainbow of organ tone-colors, building to an irresistible climax that challenges even the ablest performers.

Dupré used a medieval French carol, *Noël Nouvelet*, as the basis for his variations. The word *noël* means "news", referring to the good news of Christ's birth. This carol appears twice in the United Methodist Hymnal: No. 237, "Sing We Now of Christmas"; and No. 311, "Now the Green Blade Riseth," an Easter hymn.

In addition to his dual career as a composer and international organ recitalist, Marcel Dupré taught for many years at the Paris Conservatory. His star pupil was Olivier Messiaen, whose 100th birthday we celebrated on December 10th. We shall continue our tribute to Messiaen in 2009.