

Mountain View United Methodist Church
The Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Blue
December 22, 2024
10:30 AM

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Welcome: Beth Tinsley

Welcome to Mountain View United Methodist Church!

We are a BIG PICTURE congregation of believing ... thinking ... questioning ... and welcoming people.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are invited to join us.

Our mission is to love unconditionally ... grow spiritually ... and serve faithfully through Christ.

Come ... love ... grow ... and serve with us!

Please make sure to sign in in the black attendance book in your row. Please include your address if you are new to Mountain View or have a change of address.

Prelude: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" Bruce Gibbons

By Ludwig Krebs, Mercury Music

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Clas & Angela Thelin

Leader: The Apostle Paul told the church in Philippi, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

People: **The Lord, the prince of peace is almost here . Our hearts are filled with anticipation and joy. It's almost time for the birth of our Savior.**

Leader: The lights for the candles of hope, peace and love are lit. Shall we light the last candle of Joy?

People: **That is a big yes. Light the candle of joy. Like the prodigal son we are ready to come home and receive the birth of Jesus into our personal and corporate lives. May these lights on our Advent Wreath shine forth brightly into this dark and sinful world, so that those who are lost may find their way back to you, the God of all love and grace, forgiveness and joy.**

Hymn: "People Look East" Hymnal # 202 verses 1 & 4

By Eleanor Farjeon and Matthew Shaw, David Higham Assoc. Ltd and Oxford University Press

People, look east.
The time is near

of crowning of the year.
Make your house fair
as you are able,
Trim the hearth
and set the table.
People look east:
Love, the Guest is on the way.

Angels announce
with shouts of mirth
him who brings
new life to earth.
Set every peak
and valley humming
with the word,
the Lord is coming.
People, look east:
Love, the Lord, is on the way

“Joy to the World” Hymnal # 246 verses 1 & 2

Arranged by Lowell Mason, Public Domain

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

An Affirmation of Faith for Christmas

Adapted from the poem First Coming by Madeleine L'Engle.

Leader: Dear Christian brothers and sisters, what do you believe?

People: **God did not wait till the world was ready, till nations were at peace. God came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release. God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great. God dined with sinners in all their grime, turning water into wine. God did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame, God came and God's Light would not go out. God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the**

mystery of the Word made Flesh, the Maker of the stars was born. We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, For to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you,

Response: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Hymnal # 431

By Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, Jan-Lee Music

Children are invited to come forward during this song to join our Children's time.

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
Children all are we.
Let us walk with each other.
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me.
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment
And live each moment.
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

Children's Time: Placing of the Chrismons on the Christmas Tree

TO PRAY AND OFFER OURSELVES

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Mission Moment

The Offering

This month's special communion offering is the Alternative Gift Market

If you would like to make an offering online, see our virtual offertory basket at www.mt-viewumc.org.

Offertory Music: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" Bruce Gibbons

By Paul Manz, Concorida

Response: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal # 94

By Thomas Ken, United Methodist Publishing House

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

TO PROCLAIM OUR FAITH

The Anthem: "Breath of Heaven" Rob Browning, Tricia Garling, Sharon Pletcher, accompanied by Cheryl Conklin

By Chris Eaton/Amy Grant, Hope Publishing

Scripture: Micah 5:1-6

Now you are walled around with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel upon the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight rulers.

The Message: "Finding Our Bethlehem" Rev. Jeff Wakeley

AND GO OUT TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Hymnal #224

By John Mason Neale and Gary Allen Smith, United Methodist Publishing House

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say
News, news!
Jesus Chris is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today.

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
News, News!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And ye are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ as born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.

The Sending Forth

Postlude: "Besancon" Bruce Gibbons

By Wayne L. Wold, Augsburg Fortress"