

Mountain View United Methodist Church
December 1, 2024
The First Sunday in Advent/ Blue

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Welcome: Patti Metz

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: "In December" Clarke Becker, Cherese Brower, Rob Browning, and Sharon Pletcher accompanied by Cheryl Conklin

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Rob and Diane Browning

Leader: Today we begin Advent and once again start our preparations for the birth of Jesus, The Prince of Peace and The Way, The Truth and the Light.

People: **We do this through sacred ritual and disciplines including the lighting of the Candle in our Advent Wreath, along with the Hanging of Greens and the decorating of the Christmas tree with Chrismons.**

Leader: Today we light the first candle.

People: **It is the Candle of hope, reminding us that Jesus is the hope of the world.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O God of love, we pray that just as hope begins as a small light and grows ever larger, so may the light and hope symbolized in this first candle grow in strength. May its light warm our hearts and remind us of the hope that is coming for us in the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem. May we be anxious for the birth of Jesus and the coming of your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Hymnal # 211, verses 1-2

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile
Here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge
Show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

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

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: "Advent Hymn" Chancel Choir, accompanied by Cheryl Conklin, directed by Cherese Brower

By Joseph M. Martin and Heather Sorenson, Praise Song

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

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

Special Music: "One Small Child" Chance Choir, accompanied by Cheryl Conklin, directed by Cherese Brower

Phyllis Wolf White, Lorenz Corporation

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Message: "The Violence of Hope" Rev. Jeff Wakeley

Hymn of Preparation: "Come to the Table" The Faith We Sing # 2264

Come to the table of mercy
Prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirst,
Come and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation;
Receive from his nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation;
Drink of the blood of the lamb.

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The Invitation and Prayer of Confession

Minister: Christ, our Lord invites to His table of grace and love all who love him and wish a life of love and peace unburdened by sin. In an openness of spirit let us admit our sins and seek God's healing. Let us pray.

People: **You created us and called us good. We have not lived up to being good. We know that we have sinned and made mistakes in the way we have treated one another. Because of that our lives are chaotic. We need your forgiveness to help us see more clearly our inherent goodness. We need your grace to guide us on the path to you and your Kingdom. Forgive us and through Christ raise us to a new life filled with hope, faith and love. We humbly ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Minister: Though you live and die according to the flesh, in the name of Jesus Christ and by his death and resurrection, God has forgiven you and raises you to new life both in present and into heaven after our deaths.

People: **In Christ, and through Christ, we are now new creations: freed to build God's Kingdom of love and justice for all of humanity. Thanks be to God.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts and give thanks.

People: We lift them up to the Lord with thanksgiving.

Minister: O God, You are our creator, redeemer and inspiration. You have remained faithful to us with your covenant of love by sending your son Jesus the Christ to live and die for us so that we might be freed from sin to build your Kingdom on Earth. Through the holy scriptures he shows us how to live in your grace and love for our neighbors. On this first Day of the season we have hope for his return. And so with all the company of saints in heaven we praise your Holy name.

People: Holy, holy, holy God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Minister: The night before his death, Jesus gathered together his Disciples, both men and women and shared a meal to celebrate how God saved the people of Israel from captivity and exile. That meal was transformed when he took the bread in his hands, gave thanks to you, broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying the familiar words, "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After that, he took the cup and gave thanks to you, and shared it with everyone present and said "Drink this all of you. This is my blood shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Through the giving of body and blood Jesus transformed God's covenant with humanity. And in thanksgiving for this new covenant of grace and love, we proclaim the power and the mystery of our faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Minister: O God may your Holy Spirit be poured on us as these elements of bread and wine do their work in us. May the bread and wine nourish our souls and spirit and empower us to go forth with hope and the truth of your love on our lips and the warmth and light of your love in our hearts. May the bread and wine make us one in spirit to have the courage to confront the spiritual forces of hate which divide and hurt us so that we are able to build your Kingdom on earth. With all that said we magnify it further as we join in the prayer that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, taught us to pray.

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.

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Prayer of Dedication

AND GO OUT TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: "The King of Glory" The Faith We Sing # 2091

By Rev. Willard F. Jabusch, William F. Jabusch

The King of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him,
Lift up your voices.
Who is the King of glory;
How shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel,
The promised of all ages.

The King of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him,
Lift up your voices.
In all of Galilee, in
City or village,
He goes among his people
Curing their illness.

The King of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him,
Lift up your voices.
Sing then of David's son,
Our Savior and brother;
In all of Galilee
Was Never another.

The King of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him,
Lift up your voices.

The Blessing

Postlude: Lois Dauelsberg