

Mountain View United Methodist Church
The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
10:30 am

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Welcome: Lori Jones

Welcome to Mountain View United Methodist Church!

<Please add a sentence or two of your own welcome>

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.

Announcements

Prelude: "People, Look East" Bruce Gibbons

Call to Worship:

Leader: In God's house, we can be joyful.

People: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

Leader: In God's house, we can be weary.

People: We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

Leader: In God's house, we can be honest—

People: inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

Leader: This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

People: Let us worship our loving God.

Candle Lighting Liturgy:

Leader: How does a weary world hope?

People: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

Leader: By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

People: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

Leader: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

People: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus", Hymnal # 196

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,

hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

TO PRAY AND OFFER OURSELVES

Mission Moment

Wendy Davis will introduce Shannon Conley from Open Hearts and Open Doors.

The Offering

This month's special communion offering is *wreaths Across America*. If you would like to make an offering online, see our virtual offertory basket at www.mt-viewumc.org.

Offertory: “One Small Child” Tricia Garling and Sharon Pletcher, accompanied by Cheryl Conklin

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!

Sharing of Joys and Concerns *please wait for the microphone before sharing*

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.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

People: **Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

Leader : For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

People : **Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

Leader: For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

People: **Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

Leader: For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

People: **Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

TO PROCLAIM OUR FAITH

Special Music: “Away in the Manger” Casie Chen and Karin Taylor

Scripture: Luke 1:1-20

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

The Message: "How Does A Weary World Rejoice: We Acknowledge Our Weariness"
Rev. Ingrid Beguiristain

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world—a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit. And so we return to this space. We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work. Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel", Hymnal # 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.

The Benediction

Family of faith, As you leave this place, you go into a weary world – so speak tenderly
Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope, and remember
That Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved, So go rejoicing. The world
needs it. Amen.

Postlude: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Casie Chen and Karin Taylor