



**Mountain Shadows**  
**Presbyterian Church**

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

**Sunday, December 24, 2017, 10:00 AM**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Gather in God's Name**

*Thank you for silencing all mobile phones. \* Stand as you are able. Please sign the fellowship pad, found on the chair on the center aisle. When all have signed, pass the pad back to the center.*

**Prelude**

*Ave Maria*

Bach/Gounod

*Please conclude conversation in preparation to hear God's Word in worship.*

**Opening Prayer**

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions of Guests and Visitors**

**Introit**

*Song of Mary*

Text- Miriam Winter,  
Music-Morning Song

**Call to Worship and Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

(responsive, adapted from Psalm 89)

**Worship Co-Leader:** Garrett Rensing

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**We declare that God's steadfast love is established forever;**

**God's faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

*(The fourth Advent candle is lit.)*

Sharon Rensing

We have lit the candle of God's great faithfulness.

God's faithfulness and steadfast love will be with the Anointed One.

**In God's name the Savior is exalted.**

**And so we cry out to God, the Rock of our salvation! Amen.**

**\*Hymn #133**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful, verses 1-3*

**Call to Confession** (adapted from Romans 16: 26)

For ages and ages the message about Jesus Christ was kept secret,  
but then at last it was told,

so that all people would listen and have faith. Let us pray.

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Just as the Angel Gabriel said to Mary, “the Lord is with you,”  
you, O God, are surely with us.

Yet, we doubt it.

If we believed in you as deeply as you call us to,  
what would you require of us?

What would you conceive in us?

We are afraid to know.

So we hesitate and question you.

We see ourselves as empty  
and wonder whether you are as full of possibility  
as the Scriptures and the promises of Christmas claim.

Renew our faith in you, our God, we pray.

*(Please pause to offer a silent prayer.)*

Overcome our faltering and our failures, Most High God.

Let your Holy Spirit be upon us.

Bring forth new life through us,  
and awaken in us a desire to serve others in your name.

Let it be with us according to your Word,

Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

*(Quiet prayer and reflection)*

**Sung Response for Advent**

**Tune:** 90, Wait for the Lord (refrain)

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!**

**Words of Assurance** (responsive, adapted from Romans 16: 25 and 27)

God is able to strengthen us according to the gospel  
and the proclamation of Jesus Christ.

**To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ,  
be the glory forever! Amen.**

**\*Sung Response**

**Tune:** 2276

**Glory to God in the highest!**

**Sing glory to God!**

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to God's people on earth!**

**\*The Passing of Christ's Peace**

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you...**and also with you.**

*You may turn to your neighbor and share a sign of Christ's peace.*

**\*Hymn #158**

*Born in the Night, Mary's Child*

## Proclaim God's Word

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

(N.T. pg. 53; lg. print pg. 69)

Response

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Will We Let it Be With Us?

Rev. Rachel Srubas

**\*Hymn of Affirmation**

**There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do**

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD 8.6.8.6 ("While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks")

**"There's not a thing that God can't do!"**

**The angel said. "Not one!**

**For Mary, God has favored you**

**And you will bear God's Son."**

**So Mary answered, "Here am I,**

**The servant of the Lord."**

**She knew that she could well rely**

**Upon the angel's word.**

**There's not a blessing we won't know**

**If God is pleased to share;**

**As Mary found out long ago,**

**We're ever in God's care.**

**O God, what awesome things you do;**

**You call, surprise and bless!**

**As Mary answered, may we, too,**

**Respond by saying, "Yes!"**

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## Respond to God

**Thank You Moment**

Al Johnson

**Invitation to Offering**

God is with us in powerful ways, bringing shining new hope into the world.

The ministry of our church is radiant with that great hope.

In our giving this morning, our joy overflows in generosity.

Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

**The Offertory**

*Lo How a Rose E're Blooming*

Text- German Carol,  
Music- Praetorius

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Christ, all people here below.**

**Praise Holy Spirit ever more.**

**Praise God, triune, whom we adore! Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

We offer to you, O God, these gifts of our lives and service.  
Keep us close to all who need your love, justice, compassion, and healing;  
help us to show them that with you, nothing is impossible. Amen.

**Give Thanks to God**

**The Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

*You are invited to speak your prayer requests first on behalf of the wider world;  
then for those close to you, and for yourself.*

**The People's Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

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

**Go in God's Name**

**\*Hymn #143**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verses 1-3*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Arr. Mark Hayes

The Worship has ended. The Service begins.



**Church Holiday  
Office Hours**

**Mon., Dec. 25, 2017 – Mon., Jan. 1, 2018**  
**The office will be closed. Happy Holidays!**