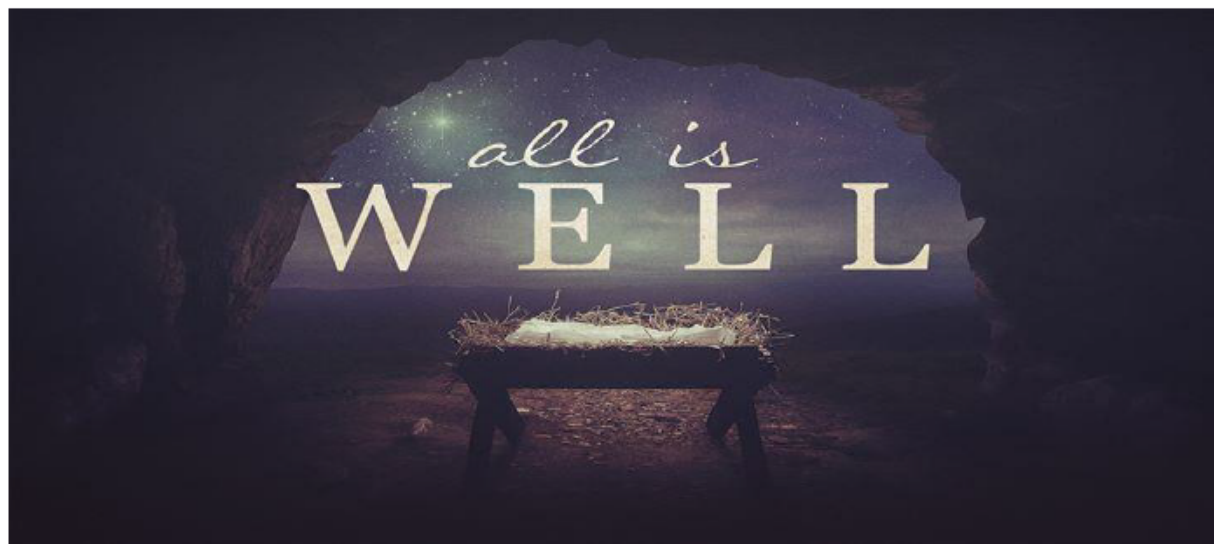


Christmas Eve 2017: A Celebration of God With Us



Instrumental Meditation *Carolyn Ansell - Harp*

Threefold Chime and Prelude *All is Calm* Anne Crosby Gaudet

Kindly conclude conversation and listen in preparation for worship. Thank you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening Prayer

Words of Welcome Rev. Rachel Srubas

Call to Worship (responsive)

The busyness of our lives gives way to simple joy.

God summons us to sing a new song!

In this moment,

it seems nothing can stand in the way of our response.

In the beauty of this sanctuary, our hearts are stirred.

All our losses and disappointments melt into hope.

Surely God does reign among us.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!

May God fulfill the promise of Christmas in our joyous worship.

May the story and songs of Christ's birth renew our faith in God.

Let the holy light we witness here together

shine through us and beyond us to all people. Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Christ's coming brings justice as well as mercy.

Jesus comes to make all things new.

The new heaven and the new earth will be born in us tonight. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

As a child is open to welcome each person, may we be open, O God.

Empower us to face the shadows in our own souls.

Attune our faith more to your will than to our own demands.

Teach us to acknowledge the mistakes we make and the evil we allow.

Keep us, loving God, from forgetting the victims of greed and war.

Turn us toward people who are hungry and homeless and need our help.

Come to us; be born in us; make your home among us, we pray.

(Please pause to offer a silent prayer.)

Your light shines in the deepest night, O Holy One.

Save us, not because of our good deeds,

but by your own goodness and loving kindness,

which come to us through Jesus, your beloved son. Amen.

(Pause for silent reflection.)

Sung Response

Tune: 145, Greensleeves

O bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high; his mother sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary

Words of Assurance

God has judged us fairly and forgiven us completely.

The Creator's Word has come to us in person.

The Holy Human One has been brought forth.

And so we can affirm that we are God's beloved people!

Let all nations of the world embrace the Bringer of Peace!

***A Song of Glory**

Tune: 113, Gloria

Angels we have heard on high,

Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply

Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***The Passing of Christ's Peace** (responsive)

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

All Is Well: The Story and Songs of Christ's Birth

*Music presented by the Mountain Shadows Choir, Charmaine Piane Dame, Director,
with narration by Ken McAllister*

Invitation to the Offering

The birth of Jesus reminds us that all life is precious.

Jesus frees us from illusions of riches and power

and leads us into a life of gratitude to God and generosity to others.

We have been given much, and so we have much to give.

Let us make offerings to share the abundance God provides.

Offertory

Angels We Have Heard on High

Arr. Frank Voltz

Carolyn Ancell – Harp

***Offering Song: O Come, Let Us Adore Him (3 times), Christ, the Lord!** Tune: 133, refrain

***Pastoral Prayer**

Keep burning candles upright at all times. To light a candle, tip the unlit wick toward flame.

***A Carol by Candlelight**

Tune: 122, Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Joy to the World
Carolyn Ancell – Harp

Arr. Daniel Burton

Please extinguish candles carefully and join us outside for festive refreshments.



**Mountain Shadows
Presbyterian Church**

Caring for Community, Centered in Christ

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is a Christ centered fellowship, called to live as disciples of Jesus Christ as we care for our community and our world.

We strive to share the good news of the Gospel with each other and the surrounding communities, and to interact with love and grace with all of God's creation.

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