



Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 10:00 AM
The First Sunday of Advent
Seeking God's Healing During the Holidays
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

Lo, How a Rose

Arr. Brian Childers

Mountain Shadows Handbell Choir

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening Prayer

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions of Guests and Visitors

Introit

While We Are Waiting, Come

Cloninger & Cason

Call to Worship (responsive)

Worship Co-Leader: Joseph Panessidi

The God of strength moves within us;
the God of courage hears our distress.
The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;
the God of healing touches us when we are broken.
When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,
we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming the world.
When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,
we turn to our God, who is loving and present to all.
God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,
and we are not alone.
Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch. Amen.

*Hymn # 795

Healer of Our Every Ill

A Call to Prayer

Today we come looking for the Christ Child. We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, our fears. We come seeking relief from pain. With the psalmist we say, "O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low." Let us pray.

An Advent Prayer for Healing and the Lighting of the First Candle

We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and years
that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, our God,
the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear,
the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you
the ways we feel we have fallen short,
and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you,
for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you
the times we have walked alone, in darkness.

Asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands,
you would place the gift of peace, healing, and shalom,
we light the first Advent candle.

(Please pause to offer silent prayer as the first Advent Candle is lit.)

At times we have turned away from your light, O God.

But your light has never failed. Help us reach out together for the light of faith,
for renewal and recovery and a new day coming,
in Jesus, for whom we eagerly wait. Amen.

(Quiet prayer and reflection)

Sung Response

Tune: 90

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!

Words of Assurance (responsive)

Power and mystery go before us, to show us the way.
God's light shines above us to lighten our world.
Steadfast love lies beneath us to bear us up.
Christ walks with us and gives us companionship.
The Spirit burns within us to bring us joy. 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.

Choral Anthem

Of The Father's Love Begotten
Mountain Shadows' Choir

Arr. John Erickson

Proclaim God's Word

Epistle Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	(N.T. pg.192; lg. print pg.249)
Sermon	Let Yourself Be Prayed-For	Rev. Rachel Srubas
Response	This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	
*Hymn of Affirmation # 470	<i>There Is a Longing in Our Hearts</i>	

Respond to God

Invitation to the Offering (based on 2 Peter 3:8-15)

All things in heaven and on earth belong to God,
who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.
In joyful expectation, let us offer our gifts to the Lord.

The Offertory	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent</i> Mountain Shadows Handbell Choir	Arr. M. L. Thompson
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*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)

How can we thank you, O God?
With these offerings, and with our very lives,
we thank you for sun and moon and stars;
for breath and life and all things good;
for your steadfast promise and your faithful love;
for the day that is surely coming
when all things will be made new. Amen.

Sharing of Written Joys and Concerns

*Today, joys and concerns will be expressed in writing and placed in the offering plates.
Pastor Rachel Srubas and Deacons will lift up requested prayers during the coming week.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus.

The Thanksgiving (responsive)

He came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire,
to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty,
and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—
this bread, this cup, this community.

Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church,
and one with Christ, who gives himself in love
for the healing of the world.

Advent Communion Song

Tune: 95

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God. (Sing twice.)

Give Thanks to God

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.

Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Sacrament by Intinction

*Please come forward to be served. Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats.
Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the tray.*

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
O God, we have received from your creation bread and wine.
We have remembered Jesus' dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Amen.

Go in God's Name

*Hymn #87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Mountain Shadows Handbell Choir

Arr. Michael Ryan