



Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

Sunday, December 23, 2018, 10:00 AM
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Receiving the Christmas Joy Offering

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 E'er Blooming
JJ Johnston-Trombone

Arr. Michael Raehpour

Opening Prayer

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions of Guests and Visitors

Introit

While We Are Waiting

Cloninger & Cason

Call to Worship (responsive)

Worship Co-Leader: Joy Lewis

Long ago the people were given a sign of God's presence.

Look, the young woman shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God with us."

God's promise to us remains sure and true:

God's anointed Son will soon walk among us,

to lighten our darkness, to restore the joy of our salvation, to save us from sin.

God—the God of all love—is with us. Praise the Lord!

***Hymn #98**

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Call to Confession (based on Isaiah 12:2)

Surely God is our salvation.

Have faith, and do not be afraid.

Trusting in God's grace, let us admit our need for forgiveness,

and seek the light of God's mercy and love.

Advent Prayer of Confession and the Lighting of the Fourth Candle (unison)

Sun of Justice,
come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.
You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
Yet we confess we have not expected or recognized your reign.
And so, the sacred promises and prophecies of Scripture
strike us as pretty, but improbable.
When we hear of how you bring down the powerful from their thrones,
O God, help us see and seek your Sovereignty on earth, today.
When we hear of how you lift up the lowly,
inspire us to do our part in lifting up the lost and the least of this world.
Fill our hungry hearts, we pray, with the goodness of your truth.
Fill this shadowed world with the light of your justice and peace.
(Please pause to offer silent prayer as the fourth Advent Candle is lit.)
Desire of nations and Savior of all, come save us.
Forgive the failures of imagination
that cause us to disbelieve your word.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that the songs of Scripture may be our songs,
and our souls may magnify your power to do great things
in remembrance of your mercy to all generations. 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, based on Isaiah 35:1, 10)

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom!
The people of God will return with joy and singing!
In the name of Jesus Christ, for whom we long, we are forgiven.
Glory be to God!

***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

Breath of Heaven
Mountain Shadows Choir

Amy Grant & Chris Eaton

Proclaim God's Word

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-55

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

Response

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

Sermon *The Gospels of Elizabeth and Mary* Rev. Denise Edwards and Rev. Rachel Srubas

*Hymn of Affirmation #100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

Respond to God

Invitation to the Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering (based on Luke 1:46-47, 51-53)

Let us magnify the Lord, rejoicing in the One
who scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly,
and fills the hungry with good things.
Let us make our offerings to the Lord.

The Offertory

Ave Maria
Karen Lamkin-Soprano

Franz Schubert

*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)

All things in heaven and on earth belong to you, O God.
You are coming in glory to reveal a new creation.
May these gifts, which we dedicate to your purposes,
lift up people who have been put down,
and fill those who have been made hungry.
Especially we pray for those devoted students and church workers in need
who will be blessed and helped by the Christmas Joy Offering.
We place these gifts before you in Jesus' name, for his sake. 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 #129**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Lo How a Rose E're Blooming
Brass Trio

Arr. Michael Raehpour

The Worship has ended. The Service begins.

**Please join us for Christmas Eve Worship
tomorrow, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.**