



**Mountain Shadows
Presbyterian Church**

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 10:00 AM
The First Sunday of Advent
Celebrating 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

In The Day of The Lord

MD Ridge

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions of Guests and Visitors

A Moment for Celebration

Jayne Raffety and Mary Ann Butler

Introit

Come, Lord Jesus

Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship and the Lighting of the First Advent Candle (responsive, based on Isaiah 2:1-5)

Worship Co-Leaders:

Mary Ann Butler, Jayne Raffety

Our Advent journey begins.

How shall we go?

**We shall go together, as one body,
trusting in God, and trusting one another.**

**We shall go as this community of faith,
working side by side, relying God's grace at every turn.**

We shall go in peace.

Isaiah says that in days to come,
the nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord,
and there we will beat swords into plowshares
and spears into pruning hooks; there, we will learn war no more.

God will teach us peace.

**We light the first Advent candle to burn
as sign of peace among all people.**

(Please pause in silence while the first Advent candle is lit.)

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.

May we follow in the ways of peace. Amen.

***Hymn Like a Candle Aflame**

Tune: 41/Lyons

Text: Verse 1: by Rachel M. Srubas

Verse 2: Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used with Permission.

**The season has come when earth longs for light,
The days have grown short, and soon comes the night.
If we're of good courage and call on God's name,
Our faith will stand strong like a candle aflame!
The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.**

Call to Confession

Having gathered to learn holy ways of living, and find the right paths to follow,
we are invited now to unburden our hearts and seek God's mercy,
so that we may live freely in the light of the Lord. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, you set before us the way of goodness
and beckon us to follow you. For the times we disregard your teachings,
and ignore your word of wisdom and challenge,
we need awareness of our shortcomings and courage to admit them.
Strengthen us to recognize our role in causing divisions and discord.**

**For the ways we have turned words into weapons,
or caused others harm with harsh actions,
forgive us and turn us toward your peace.**

(Please pause to offer silent prayer.)

God, you call people of every land to dwell in harmony.

Keep us watchful; awaken us to your ways.

**With all beings who yearn for your justice and peace,
we wait in hope for the light of the world. Amen.**

(Quiet prayer and reflection)

Sung Response

Tune: 92

**While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.**

Words of Assurance (responsive, based on Romans 13:11-14)

We know what time it is! Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith.

The night is almost over and the day is near.

God guides us out of the shadows and clothes us in light.

**Freed from fighting, obsession, and guilt,
we are forgiven and illumined by Christ. Amen!**

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

Advent Processional
Mountain Shadows' Choir

Daniel Greig

Proclaim God's Word

Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

(O.T. pg. 594; lg. print pg. 773)

Response

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

Sermon

God's Transformers

Rev. Denise Edwards

***Hymn of Affirmation # 362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Respond to God

Invitation to the Offering

We are the work of God's hands.
God continues to shape us into a people of goodness and peace.
We bring forward gifts as an act of worship,
to co-create a more peaceable world through the ministries of this church
and through the witness of our daily lives.
Let us gather our gifts together
and present them as an offering to God.

The Offertory

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed & Burning African American Spiritual

***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)

**In this time of Advent, O God, we wait.
We anticipate the coming of your son.
We hope to emulate Jesus' generosity
and compassion as we share these gifts.
Use them to bless and heal your people. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table (responsive)

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.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a holy privilege, our God,
to gather at Christ's table in this sacred Advent season.

**Your prophets foretold the Messiah
who was humbly born in Bethlehem.**

By the bread of life that we break and share,
remind us that Jesus, the light of the world, lived among us.

**By the cup of salvation poured out for many,
encourage us to look forward in faith,
singing as we prepare for Christ's promised return.**

Advent Communion Song

Tune: 701

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Holy One of ages past, of present days, of future times,
through the meal you have shared with all your faithful people,
strengthen us to make peace in the world for your sake. Amen.
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Amen.

Go in God's Name

*Hymn #377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson