



FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

“HOLD
ON
TO
HOPE”

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 1ST, 2024

10AM WORSHIP SERVICE

MEDIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome

MPC'S MISSION

Worship. Grow. Serve.
Together

VISITING TODAY?

If this is your first time worshipping with us, we hope you will feel welcome. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by phone at 610-566-3944.

We also invite you to visit our website at www.mediapresbyterian.org

Leading Worship This Morning...

Reverend Rose Sparrow, Parish Associate
Andrew Behringer, Director of Contemporary Music
Lisa VanHeldorf, Director of Traditional Music
Emily Barth, Organist
Eric MacDonald, Worship Leader

*Today's chancel flowers are given
to the Glory of God and in
memory of loved ones.
~ Campbell Family*

GATHERING

Prelude**Wachet auf**

Philip Nicolai

Welcome and Announcements**Call to Worship** (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

Leader: Listen to words of promise and hope and share the great good news;

All: God is not distant or uncaring, but moves with loving power to meet us as we meet.

Leader: The Living God is in our midst to rejoice over us with gladness.

All: Renew us in love, and lift us up with words of hope:

Leader: I will remove disaster from you. I will deal with oppressors, rescue the lame and gather the outcast.

All: I will bring you home forever and change your shame into honor and praise. Thanks be to God!

Advent Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here,
 Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice, Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of HOPE by: The Wellman Family**Prayer of the Day (All)**

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive Him when He comes, for He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

***Opening Worship**

(Music Sheets Available)

(Led by Worship Team)

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**How Great is Our God****Please stand in body or in spirit*

Blessing of the Children (*All*)

Almighty God, from whom we receive our life: We thank you for blessing us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love you, and to love whatever is just, true and good. Protect them from danger and hold them safe in your arms. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Call to Confession (Hebrews 10:22)

Leader: Let us draw near to God with sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, our guilty hearts sprinkled clean, our bodies washed with pure water. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: **let us confess our sins together.**
(Now, take a few moments of honesty before God in silent confession)

Prayer of Confession (*All*)

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from Jeremiah 33:15-16 NRSV)

Leader: In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Receive the good news of the Gospel,

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***Song of Praise Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Henry Smart

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the
newborn King!**

***Sharing the Joy of Our Faith**

EQUIPPING

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Eric MacDonald

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 pg. 609,
Isaiah 60:1-3 pg. 602**

Eric MacDonald

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading II: Lamentations 3:21-26 pg. 669

Rev. Rose Sparrow

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Hold on to Hope"

Rev. Rose Sparrow

RESPONDING

***Affirmation of Faith (*All*)**

Advent Hope

Leader: Let us affirm our hope in Christ, who came, who comes, and who is to come: When violence reigns, and war seems never-ending, Christ is our hope,

All: Born among us, crucified and risen.

Leader: When violence reigns, and war seems never-ending, Christ is our hope,

All: Born among us, crucified and risen.

Leader: When despair lies in wait and life loses meaning, Christ is our hope,

All: Born among us, crucified and risen.

Leader: When people claim to know what God alone knows, and say the end is near, Christ is our hope.

All: Born among us, crucified and risen.

Leader: When life on earth is extinguished this year, next year, or in a hundred million years, Christ is our hope.

All: Born among us, crucified and risen.

Leader: In sorrow and joy, today and tomorrow, in life and in death, Christ is our hope,

All: Born among us, crucified and risen.

All: Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Stewardship

Offertory Anthem

People Look East

(MPC Choir)

*Doxology

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Prayer of Dedication

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

There are prepackaged communion cups located in baskets at the back of the sanctuary if you prefer not taking communion by intinction.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise. *The prayer continues...*

Sanctus (*All*)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer (*All*)

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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us; 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

Communion of the People

Prayer

SENDING

***Closing Hymn #15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers**

(Blue)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

People Look East

Jason Krug

GENERAL INFORMATION

Restrooms -A restroom is located in the parlor at the back of the sanctuary. Handicap-accessible restrooms are located through either side door at the front of the sanctuary, then around the corner.

Nursery -Our Nursery is available for infants and children up to 4 years old during our 9:00am Sunday School hour and the 10:00am worship service.

Sunday School -Adults meet at 9:00am in Room 102. Children's Sunday School is in the Children's Wing. Youth Sunday School is in the Youth Room.

Prayer Chain -If you are in need of prayer or would like to receive prayer chain updates, please email Reverend Rose.

Attention Mothers of Infants -The parlor at the back of the church is available for privacy during church services.

Church Office Hours- Monday through Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ **Confirmation Class**

MPC will offer a Confirmation Class for high school students who are interested in exploring their faith more deeply and in becoming members of Media Presbyterian Church. We will have an informational meeting for interested students and parents in mid-December, and the class will begin in late January. Here is a description of the curriculum we will be using from the PCUSA called "Big God, Big Questions." "Focused on preparing students to authentically answer the traditional membership questions, this Confirmation curriculum will equip students with the vital skills of asking and seeking answers using scripture, tradition, and church to tell their own story as Christian believers." For more information, please contact Tom Jackson at tjack713@hotmail.com, or 610-299-4326.

◆ **Christmas Eve Service**

MPC's Christmas Eve Service will be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 24th.

ONGOING MINISTRIES

◆ **Adult Sunday School**

- Adult Sunday School meets each Sunday from 9-9:45am in Room 102. You may begin attending at any time! For additional information, please contact: Reverend David Cagle (david@mediapresbyterian.org).

◆ **Cornerstone Kids Children's Ministry**

– Building Lives on Christ (BLOC) is available most Sundays for children in 2nd grade and younger. The children are dismissed after the Children's Moment and should be picked up from Room 201 when the service is over.
– Contact Jeanne Cunningham (fuselloj@gmail.com) for more information.
– All Aboard!

Everyone is welcome to ride the Bethlehem Express with us this fall! On Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30, we will start preparing for Christmas by learning songs, doing crafts, playing games, and taking imaginary train rides to some unexpected places! In preparation, look up some cool facts about trains and get ready to share them with your fellow passengers. You won't want to miss this adventure!

◆ **MPC Youth Ministry**

– Youth Sunday School meets from 9-9:45am in the Youth Room.
– Youth Group meets on Thursday from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Room.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Your orders for poinsettias enable us to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and allow you to recognize loved ones.

Poinsettias may be ordered by filling out this form and either placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the office. Plants cost \$12.00 each. Please make checks payable to *Media Presbyterian Church*. Orders and payments must be received by **Sunday, December 15**. Poinsettias may be taken home after the 5:30pm service on Christmas Eve. If you do not wish to take your plant, please check the appropriate box below. Plants not picked up will be taken to the sick and/or homebound.

Please reserve:

_____ **Red Poinsettia (s)**

_____ **White Poinsettia (s)**

_____ **Total x \$12.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed**

In memory of:

In honor of:

To the Glory of God:

GIVEN BY:

Please hold _____ plant (s) for pickup.

Please deliver _____ plant (s) to shut-ins.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1st, 2024

Sunday, Dec 1st

8:30am Choir Practice, Sanctuary
8:45am Nursery opens for drop-off
9:00am Adult Sunday School, Room 102
9:00am Worship Team, Sanctuary
9:15am Sunday Worship Service (BLOC), Sanctuary
10:00am Worship Team, Sanctuary
5:00pm Media Christmas Parade, Veterans & State St.

Monday, Dec 2nd

12:00pm Prayer & Devotion, Rev. Rose, Zoom
6:30pm PNC, Room 102

Tuesday, Dec 3rd

10:00am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Mission cmt. mtg., Room 102

Wednesday, Dec 4th

9:00am Woofies Baking Co., Kitchen
10:00am Prayer Warriors, Rev. Rose Sparrow
Call 425-436-6394, Code 338523#
6:30pm Wednesday Night Kids Club, Youth Room
6:30pm MOYC, Room 103
7:00pm Christology class, Zoom

Thursday, Dec 5th

7:00am Men' Bible Study, Court Diner
10:00am Women's Bible Study, Zoom
6:30pm MPC Ringers, Sanctuary
7:00pm Youth Group, Youth Room
7:00pm Yoga
7:30pm MPC Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, Dec 6th

Office Closed

Saturday, Dec 7th

12:00pm Media Open House Tour
6:00pm NA Meeting, Dale Hall

Sunday, Dec 8th

8:30am Choir Practice, Sanctuary
8:45am Nursery opens for drop-off
9:00am Adult Sunday School, Room 102
9:00am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room
9:00am Pageant Rehearsal
9:15am Worship Team, Sanctuary
10:00am Sunday Worship Service (BLOC), Sanctuary
11:30am Worship Team, Sanctuary

Transitional Pastor	Reverend Dr. David Cagle	David@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1001
Parish Associate	Reverend Rose Sparrow	Rose@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1002
Interim Business Administrator	Sandy Campbell	Sandyc@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1006
Church Administrator	Camryn Gavula	Camryn@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1005
Facilities Manager	Scott MacDonald	Scott@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1008
Director of Traditional Music	Lisa VanHeldorf	Lisa@mediapresbyterian.org
Organist	Emily Barth	Emily@mediapresbyterian.org
Director of Contemporary Music	Andrew Behringer	Andrew@mediapresbyterian.org
	Main Kitchen	Ext. 1021
	Parlor <i>(back of sanctuary)</i>	Ext. 1022
	Nursery	Ext. 1023
	Benevolence Hotline	Ext. 2000

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive our weekly digital newsletter by going to our website or by emailing camryn@mediapresbyterian.org

ONLINE GIVING

Visit MediaPresbyterian.org/GiveOnline or scan the QR code to give your tithes.

