

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

People: Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

L: Tonight, we long to worship the newborn King.

People: Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

L: Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

People: Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

L: Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

People: Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we light all the candles. The first candle ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The second candle shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The third candle expressed the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The fourth candle shines with grace and new life on God's unconditional love. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle in celebration of our Messiah's birth. As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages—Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

MESSAGE Let there be light! Pastor Mills
Children are invited to come to the front for the message with the pastor.

OFFERING
Invitation to the Offering for Missions

OFFERTORY "How Great Our Joy" Jubilee Players
Video of art from the children's ministry

*DOXOLOGY #94
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
(the pastor continues with words declaring God's mighty acts...)

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
(the pastor continues with words remembering the action of God in Christ.)

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE DISTRIBUTION

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

(a child will pray:)

Visit your family, O God.

Give us love, joy, and your peace.

Purify our thoughts, words, and deeds, so that when Jesus Christ comes, he will find a place prepared for his coming.

(a youth will pray:)

O heavenly Father, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of your son, fill our hearts and lives with praise.

Grant that we may be just and merciful, ready to help in the needs of our neighbor

and conscious of your great love for all the world.

Fill the Christian family with your spiritual gifts of forgiveness, patience, mercy, and unending joy.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*CANDLELIGHT CAROL

"Silent Night"

(While the hymn is sung, the pastor will begin to light the congregation candles. Please hold lit candles straight up; tilt unlit candles to

*BENEDICTION

Go, singing a song to the God of our salvation.

Sing of mighty deeds and glory.

Join the heavenly chorus and sing:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace."

Sing of God's salvation from day to day.

Jesus Christ is born today!

It is our tradition to give all of our Christmas Eve offering to places of ministry. This year, we have chosen three ministries to children and youth: The Harbour in Albuquerque, McCurdy School in Española, and Sacramento Camp in southern New Mexico. The Harbour is a shelter for at-risk teens. McCurdy is a United Methodist ministry focused on education for lower-income families. And Sacramento Camp is the church camp owned by our Annual Conference. 100% of the undesignated offering that you give tonight will be divided as a Christmas gift to these important ministries.



Worship Schedule

Combined Services on December 30 at 10:15 am. Sunday school will be at 9:00 am. The service will be led by the JugBand and will include a message in the form of a readers theater.

We will have a **New Year's Eve Watch Night Service at 8:00 pm December 31.** You are invited to this prayer service and then to stay afterwards to play board games (and other) games. The youth will have a lock-in that night. You are welcome to come to the service and stay as long as you like.



The church office will be closed December 25th through January 1. If you have an emergency, please call the pastor or church secretary at 505.359.0052.



Unhanging of the Greens: January 6th after the Contemporary Service join us as we "unhang" the greens after Epiphany services on January 6, 2016. We will share a light lunch of soup, bread, and dessert. Contact Janet Vertrees at 505.359.9087 with questions.



If you would like to join our email lists, you can go to the church website, www.mountainsidemethodist.org and click on the link for "Join Our Email List".

allow you to choose which list you would like to join.