



[Link to zoom worship at 9:00 on Sunday](#)

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**December 3 2023 + 1st Sunday in Advent
The Gift of Being Present with Hope**

Welcome

Prelude: Hovey Corbin

Call to Worship

We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

We wait in the hope of the coming of the Messiah.

We wait,

and we remember the astounding things God has done to save God's people.

We wait in the hope of the coming of the Messiah.

We wait,

and we pay attention for signs of God's justice and mercy
turning the world upside down.

We wait in the hope of the coming of the Messiah.

We wait,

and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of God's promise.

Let us worship in the hope of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

Opening Prayer

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.

Raise our heads in expectation,

that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Prayer of Presence

Holy Living Light of God, you are our Hopeful Presence.
Let this hope grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Hope to others.
Open our hearts. May it be so. **Amen.**

Song of Faith**Affirmation of Faith**

Leader:

There is one God
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,
who came as a ransom for all,
to whom we testify.

People:

**This saying is sure
and worthy of full acceptance:
That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,
and was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.
Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.**

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:3-9

Message: Hope

Rev. Blaine Wimberly

Song of Faith:**Generosity Moment:****Offertory Prayer**

Great God of hope: we enter this season of preparation for your Son's coming, looking not for just a memory of past events, but anticipating a return. The master is near. We strive to get our lives in order and pray that our giving of ourselves to these preparations might reflect the earth-shaking importance of his coming. Help us to give ourselves generously, for we do not know the time -- day or hour. We pray in the name of the one who will come. **Amen.**

Doxology:

O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care,
to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

Announcements**Joys and Concerns****Prayer Song:** *Believe*

Blessing of Food
Prayers of the People
Lord's Prayer

Song of Faith:

Benediction

Fellowship Time

Mountainside United Methodist Church

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of our community and the world.

Vision: To be a thriving Christ-led people in the East Mountains,
inviting all generations to a transforming experience of God's Grace.

WORSHIP + CONNECT + GROW + SERVE

Announcements and Calendar

We are glad you are online with us today!
Please register your attendance and your joys and concerns in the
chat box.

Choir practice has been moved to Sunday morning following the 10:30 service. If you've ever considered singing with the choir, you're invited to come check it out.

Mountainside is giving **Christmas boxes** again this year. Thank you for your abundant donations of non-perishable food. We are now accepting monetary donations for perishable items. Packing day is December 16. To donate food or help with packing, please contact Jane Leigh, coordinator.

Church Events

Monday, December 4

9:30 Line Dancing in the gym with Linda
3:00 Teatime online
6:00 Finance Committee online

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 Holy Yoga in the sanctuary with Connie

Wednesday, December 6

5:30 Kids' Connection - Advent

Thursday, December 7

3:00 Teatime Online

Sunday, December 10; Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 Sunday Morning Live

9:00 The Breakfast Club adult Sunday School

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

11:45 Choir practice in the Round Room

Looking Ahead:

Thursday, December 21 6:00 pm Blue Christmas service

Sunday, December 24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve service

Sunday, December 31 New Year's at Noon in the MAC

Sunday, December 31 11:00pm Watch Night service on zoom

Community Events

Acton Academy

Monday-Friday in upstairs classrooms

Twelve Step Groups

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall M, W, F noon; and T, Th 4:30 pm;
men's group on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Al-Anon meets in the Fellowship Hall Friday 10:00 am


Fitness

Dance Aerobics in the gym Wednesday 9:00 am

Dance Fitness in the gym Friday 9:00 am

Upward

Evaluation, Registration, and Training ongoing;
practice sessions have Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.



Mountainside
United Methodist Church
Connecting People with Jesus

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