



December 1 HOPE

Rome: A Place of Longing

Luke 2: 1-3 and
Romans 8: 18-25

December 1, 2024
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

“Most of the radical revolutions in history have started with the troubled spirits of individuals who long for a better world, individuals who usually feel inadequate to be change agents but who act upon their troubling. The two most significant ingredients for change are courage and trust.” – Rob Fuquay, “On the Way to Bethlehem”

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome

Rev. Laurie Anderson

The Community Gathers

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Fred Bock

*Advent Candle Lighting (Hope)

Adriana Escalante & Martha Villalpando

*Hymn 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(verse 1)

ST. LOUIS

One: The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

Many: We are on our way to more hope.

One: Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

Many: We are a people who long for Good News.

One: There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

Many: God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

*Opening Hymn 119 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

GENEVA 42

Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their Parents.

The Community Responds

Prayers of the People

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 583

Lead Me, Guide Me

LEAD ME GUIDE ME

Offering Moment

Alternative Christmas

Kathy Leslie

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-3

Sara Leslie

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. (NRSVUE)

Por aquellos días, Augusto César decretó que se levantara un censo en todo el Imperio romano. Este primer censo se efectuó cuando Cirenio gobernaba en Siria. Así que iban todos a inscribirse, cada cual a su propio pueblo. (NVI)

Special Music

Carol of the Advent

arr. Philip R. Diettrich

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-25

Rev. Laurie Anderson

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (NRSVUE)

De hecho, considero que en nada se comparan los sufrimientos actuales con la gloria que habrá de revelarse a nosotros. La creación aguarda con ansiedad la revelación de los hijos de Dios, pues fue sometida a la frustración, no por su propia voluntad, sino por la del que así lo dispuso. Pero queda la firme esperanza de que la creación misma ha de ser liberada de la corrupción que la esclaviza, para así alcanzar la gloriosa libertad de los hijos de Dios. Sabemos que toda la creación todavía gime a una, como si tuviera dolores de parto. Y no solo ella, sino también nosotros mismos, que tenemos las primicias del Espíritu, gemimos interiormente, mientras aguardamos nuestra adopción como hijos, es decir, la redención de nuestro cuerpo. Porque en esa esperanza fuimos salvados. Pero esperar lo que ya se ve no es esperanza. ¿Quién espera lo que ya ve? Pero si esperamos lo que todavía no vemos, en la espera mostramos nuestra constancia. (NVI)

Sermon

"Rome: A Place of Longing"

Rev. Laurie Anderson

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Institution of the Table

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

Communion Prayer

Rev. Jan Sullivan

Communion Hymn 421

Hasta Tu Altar
(verses 1 in Spanish, then English)

HASTA TU ALTAR

Communion by Intinction

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Tear a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. You may return to your seat via the side aisles. The Table of the Lord is open to all. Christ invites us into communion.

Passing of the Peace

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

*Closing Hymn 125

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*Benediction

Rev. Laurie Anderson

*Benediction Hymn 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(verse 4)

ST. LOUIS

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Greg Bottomley

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

Prelude: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, arr. Fred Bock. ©1984 Fred Bock Music.

Special Music: *Carol of the Advent*, arr. Philip R. Diettrich. ©1962 Abingdon Press.

Postlude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*, arr. Greg Bottomley. ©2014 Augsburg Fortress.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet with the ministers after the service in the gathering area, or contact the church office any time.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

BIENVENIDA CONGREGACIONAL

"Reafirmando nuestra propia fe en Jesucristo, les damos la bienvenida a esta expresión de la iglesia universal de Dios. Los recibimos con amor, nos comprometemos a su cuidado y celebramos su presencia en nuestra congregación. Mediante el poder del espíritu de Dios, hagamos juntos justicia, amemos la misericordia y caminemos humildemente con Dios, quien nos fortalece para servirnos unos a otros."

VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to **be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger, and social issues that afflict our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Rev. Laurie Anderson
Senior Minister

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes
Minister of Church Life

Kathy Corporon
Coordinator of
Children's Programs

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

TECH CREW
DC Ciccone, John Leslie
James Lackey

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Emily Adams
Kate Lynch

DECEMBER ELDERS
Lynne Stokes
Jan Sullivan

DECEMBER DEACONS
Adriana Escalante, John Nation
Hannah Ciccone

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter for details and more.)

Order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas.

Find forms in this bulletin and in the Echo newsletter. The order deadline is Dec. 9.

Staff Love Offering received now through Dec. 22. Details in the next Echo.

Mike's Kids donations collected now through December 8.

We also need volunteers to help box up donations on Monday morning, December 9 to get them ready to be picked up by Mike's Kids, which in turn will be sent to the border. See The Echo for more information.

Alternative Christmas Gift Market is Sunday, December 8 after worship.

The online Market is up and running. Visit alternative-christmas.midwayhills.org. Along with the opportunity to buy your gifts on Dec. 8, there will be food, music, fellowship, and fun! Help is needed with set-up, cleanup, and food. If you would like to help in any capacity, please let Joan Holland or Kathy Leslie know. There will also be in-person follow-up opportunities for you to purchase gifts on Dec. 15 and 22.

Blue Christmas Service is December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

All of us experience loss. It is in the Holy Darkness that we can see light. We will experience prayer, meditation and a Sound Bath together in the Sanctuary.

Next Board Meeting is Dec. 15 after morning worship in community hall.

Drive Thru Nativity is December 20 & 21, 6-8 p.m.

Drive through the church parking lot and see angels, shepherds, wise men, and of course, the Holy Family. Then get some hot chocolate in community hall. This is for all ages. Add this to your family's Christmas Light Tour.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Interpretación en español proporcionada por el Colectivo Comal.

Si desea usar la interpretación simultánea, consulte al equipo de la mesa de sonido. O use este enlace para unirse al grupo de Whatsapp para escuchar. Por favor, silénciate. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JRxSth4JgjX0shCBm3gGo2>

Mark your calendar:

Thursdays on Zoom – All Church Prayer, 8:30 a.m.

First Tuesday Ladies' Lunch – December 1, 11:30 a.m., Chocolate Angel, 635 W. Campbell Rd. Suite 310, Richardson

Elders Meeting – December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – December 15, 12:00 p.m.

Scan this QR code to make a financial contribution to Midway Hills Christian Church:



JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

Bill Corporon, Peggy Dowdey, Christy Horn and children Betsy, Fletcher, Cameron

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Christy Horn's mother-in-law Barbara Horn; Christy Horn's friend Kate Ryer; Frank & Millie Martin's son Carl & daughter-in-law Darryll; Megan Mercer's friends the Walters family; asylum guests past and present

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Jayne & Chris Sparrer

Elaine Manworren

Cathy Parker

Emily Adams

Millie & Frank Martin

Jeryl Crawford

John Wyatt

Sympathy:



Let's celebrate with joy:

- Returning health of many in our church family and extended family
- Incoming refugees settling in Dallas
- Our guests/visitors in worship in sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Stop mass deportations
- Threat to the work of Annunciation House in El Paso and other Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants
- Steps that erode our civil rights and safety

Please pray for our nation and world:

- Post Election peaceful response & transition
- Israel and Palestine – cease fire
- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine
- All who are suffering from climate disasters nationally and worldwide.
- All who need mental health services.
- End gun violence.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

December 1

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Class
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church

Monday

December 2

- 9:00 a.m. Butterfield Gourmet (until 4:00) kitchen
- 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

Tuesday

December 3

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 9:00 a.m. Butterfield Gourmet (until 4:00) kitchen
- 11:30 a.m. First Tuesday Ladies' Lunch, Chocolate Angel, 635 W. Campbell Rd. #310, Richardson
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Wednesday

December 4

- 9:00 a.m. Butterfield Gourmet (until 4:00) kitchen

Thursday

December 5

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer (Zoom)
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG, community hall

Saturday

December 7

- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Class
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 12:00 p.m. Alternative Christmas Gift Market, community hall

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