

Midway Hills
Christian Church



January 5, 2025
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.” – Wilma Rudolph

Order of Worship

Second Sunday after Christmas

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

*Sussex Carol with
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

arr. Tom Fettke

*Call to Worship

Joan Holland

One: Darkness is banished!

Many: God's light has come to us!

One: The brightness of the Star leads us!

Many: We come to celebrate God's abiding love!

One: Glory be to God in the Highest!

Many: And on earth, peace forever. AMEN.

*Hymn 172

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

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. Laurie Anderson

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.

Offering Moment

Rev. Don Manworren

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Joan Holland

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great

company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. (NRSVUE)

Así dice el Señor: «Canten jubilosos en honor de Jacob; griten de alegría por la mejor de las naciones. Hagan oír sus alabanzas y clamen: "¡Salva, Señor, a tu pueblo! ¡Salva al remanente de Israel!". Yo los traeré del país del norte; los reuniré de los confines de la tierra. ¡Volverá una gran multitud! Entre ellos vendrán ciegos y cojos, embarazadas y parturientas. Entre llantos vendrán y entre consuelos los conduciré. Los guiaré a corrientes de agua por un camino llano en el que no tropezarán. Yo soy el padre de Israel; mi primogénito es Efraín. »Naciones, escuchen la palabra del Señor, y anuncien en las costas más lejanas: "El que dispersó a Israel, lo reunirá; lo cuidará como un pastor a su rebaño". Porque el Señor rescató a Jacob; lo redimió de una mano más poderosa que él. Vendrán y cantarán jubilosos en las alturas de Sión; disfrutarán de las bondades del Señor: el trigo, el vino nuevo y el aceite, las crías de las ovejas y las vacas. Serán como un jardín bien regado, y no volverán a desfallecer. Entonces las jóvenes danzarán con alegría y los jóvenes junto con los ancianos. Convertiré su duelo en gozo y los consolaré; transformaré su dolor en alegría. Colmaré de abundancia a los sacerdotes, y saciaré con mis bienes a mi pueblo», afirma el Señor. (NVI)

Special Music

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Laurie Anderson

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,

until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (NRSVUE)

Después de que Jesús nació en Belén de Judea en tiempos del rey Herodes, llegaron a Jerusalén unos sabios procedentes del Oriente. —¿Dónde está el que ha nacido rey de los judíos? —preguntaron—. Vimos levantarse su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo. Cuando lo oyó, el rey Herodes se turbó y toda Jerusalén con él. 4 Así que convocó a todos los jefes de los sacerdotes y maestros de la Ley de su pueblo para preguntarles dónde había de nacer el Cristo. —En Belén de Judea —le respondieron—, porque esto es lo que ha escrito el profeta: “Pero tú, Belén, en la tierra de Judá, de ninguna manera eres la menor entre las principales ciudades de Judá; porque de ti saldrá un príncipe que será el pastor de mi pueblo Israel”. Luego Herodes llamó en secreto a los sabios y se enteró por ellos del tiempo exacto en que había aparecido la estrella. Los envió a Belén y les dijo: —Vayan e infórmense bien de ese niño y tan pronto como lo encuentren, avísenme para que yo también vaya y lo adore. Después de oír al rey, siguieron su camino. Sucedió que la estrella que habían visto levantarse iba delante de ellos hasta que se detuvo sobre el lugar donde estaba el niño. Al ver la estrella, sintieron muchísima alegría. Cuando llegaron a la casa, vieron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose lo adoraron. Abrieron sus cofres y presentaron como regalos: oro, incienso y mirra. Entonces, advertidos en sueños de que no volvieran a Herodes, regresaron a su tierra por otro camino. (NVI)

Sermon

“Star Word”

Rev. Laurie Anderson

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Don Manworren

Institution of the Table

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Communion Prayer

Laura Mitchell

Communion Hymn 393

One Bread, One Body

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

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 175**

Lovely Star in the Sky

HANURE BINNANUN

***Benediction**

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Benediction Hymn 437

Go Now in Peace

GO IN PEACE

Postlude

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

Postlude: *Sussex Carol* with *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, arr. Tom Fettke. ©2007 Word Music.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter for details and more.)

Congregational meeting scheduled for January 19, 2025 after worship.

New Monday Evening Book Study starts January 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Studying "Inspired," by Rachel Held Evans. If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screen-play. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world. Meeting in person in the conference room and online.

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.

Children's Church Leadership Orientation – January 5, after worship (conference room)

Elders and Elders-Elect Dinner Meeting – January 6, 6:00 p.m.

Congregational Meeting – January 19, 12:00 p.m.

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JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

Bill Corporon, Jeryl Crawford, Emily Adams, 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 Sparrer
Emily Adams

Elaine Manworren
Millie & Frank Martin

Cathy Parker
John Wyatt

Sympathy:



Let's celebrate with joy:

- Hosting incoming 7 member asylum family
- Incoming refugees settling in Dallas
- Our guests/visitors in worship in sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Threat to the work of Annunciation House in El Paso and other Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants
- Peaceful transitions for elected administrations
- Steps that erode our civil rights and safety

Please pray for our nation and world:

- Post Election peaceful response
- 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.

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



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5,

2025

Sunday

January 5

9:30 a.m. Church Taco Breakfast (until 10:45) community hall
9:30 a.m. Choir practice
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
12:00 p.m. Children's Church Volunteer Training, conference room

Monday

January 5

9:00 a.m. Butterfield Gourmet (until 4:00) kitchen
6:00 p.m. Elders and Elders-Elect Dinner Meeting

Tuesday

January 7

9:00 a.m. Butterfield Gourmet (until 4:00) kitchen
9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

January 9

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

Sunday

January 12

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

MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Rev. Laurie Anderson
Senior Minister

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

TECH CREW
DC Ciccone
James Lackey

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Emily Adams
Kate Lynch

JANUARY ELDERS
Laura Mitchell

JANUARY DEACONS
Rob Hendrickson, Leisha Celiz
Christy Horn

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