



# MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.

January 12, 2025  
11 A.M. Worship Service

**Gathering Meditation**

"Love is a combination of care, commitment, knowledge, responsibility, respect and trust." - bell hooks

# Order of Worship

## Baptism of the Lord Sunday

### 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

*Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine*

arr. Cindy Berry

### \*Call to Worship

Mia Martin

One: When we pass through the waters,

**Many: God is there with us.**

One: When we suffer and feel hopeless,

**Many: God is there with us.**

One: When we are joyful and celebratory,

**Many: God is there with us.**

One: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

**Many: God is there with us, always.**

**Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel,  
God with us.**

### \*Hymn 257

*There's a Spirit in the Air*

LAUDS

### 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

Val Cunningham

## The Community Proclaims God's Word

### Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Mia Martin

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you

are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (NRSVUE)

Pero ahora, así dice el Señor, el que te creó, Jacob, el que te formó, Israel: «No temas, que yo te he redimido; te he llamado por tu nombre; tú eres mío. Cuando cruces las aguas, yo estaré contigo; cuando cruces los ríos, no te cubrirán sus aguas; cuando camines por el fuego, no te quemarás ni te abrasarán las llamas. Yo soy el Señor tu Dios, el Santo de Israel, tu Salvador; yo he entregado a Egipto como precio por tu rescate, a Cus y a Seba en tu lugar. Porque eres precioso a mis ojos y digno de honra, yo te amo. A cambio de ti entregaré pueblos; a cambio de tu vida entregaré naciones. No temas, porque yo estoy contigo; desde el oriente traeré a tu descendencia, desde el occidente te reuniré. Al norte diré: "¡Entrégalos!". Y al sur: "¡No los retengas! Trae a mis hijos desde lejos y a mis hijas desde los confines de la tierra. Trae a todo el que sea llamado por mi nombre, al que yo he creado para mi gloria, al que yo hice y formé"». (NVI)

## **Special Music**

*What Was Your Vow and Vision*

Brian Wren

## **Scripture Reading**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Rev. Laurie Anderson

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (NRSVUE)

La gente estaba a la expectativa y todos se preguntaban si acaso Juan sería el Cristo. —Yo los bautizo a ustedes con agua —respondió Juan a todos—. Pero está por llegar uno más poderoso que yo, a quien ni siquiera merezco desatarle la correa de sus sandalias. Él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo y con fuego. Tiene el aventador en la mano para limpiar su era y recoger el trigo en su granero. La paja, en cambio, la quemará con fuego que nunca se apagará. Un día en que todos acudían a Juan para que los bautizara, Jesús fue bautizado también. Y mientras oraba, se abrió el cielo y el Espíritu Santo bajó sobre él en forma de paloma.

Entonces se oyó una voz que desde el cielo decía: «Tú eres mi Hijo amado; estoy muy complacido contigo». (NVI)

**Sermon**

“Protection Promised”

Rev. Laurie Anderson

## **The Community Is Empowered at the Table**

**Invitation to the Table**

Frank Martin

**Institution of the Table**

Rev. Laurie Anderson

**Communion Prayer**

John Nation

**Communion Hymn 393**

*One Bread, One Body*

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

**Communion**

Please eat the “bread” as it comes to you, recognizing your connection with Christ. Please hold the “cup” until prompted by the minister. We will drink in unison. Place empty cups in the receptacle on the left side of the hymnbook rack.

**Passing of the Peace**

## **The Community is Sent to Restore God’s World**

**\*Closing Hymn 371**

*Wade in the Water*

WADE IN THE WATER

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Laurie Anderson

**Benediction Hymn 437**

*Go Now in Peace*

GO IN PEACE

**Postlude**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Todd Smith

\*Please rise in either body or spirit.

Prelude: *Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine*, arr. Cindy Berry. ©2013 Alfred Music.

Special Music: *What Was Your Vow and Vision*, Words ©1975 by Brian Wren; music: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Hal H. Hopson, ©1986 Hope Publishing.

Postlude: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, arr. Todd Smith. ©1966 Singspiration 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.

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# 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.

Mission & Outreach Committee – January 15, 7:00 p.m.

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

## 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

# 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 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 12, 2025

## **Sunday**

**January 12**

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

## **Monday**

**January 13**

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

## **Tuesday**

**January 14**

- 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

## **Wednesday**

**January 15**

- 12:00 p.m. Christian Adult Fellowship (CAF) Lunch, community hall

## **Thursday**

**January 16**

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer (Zoom)
- 1:00 p.m. Men's Lunch Group, Garden Tea Room, 5330 Forest Lane, Dallas
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG, community hall

## **Sunday**

**January 19**

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting, sanctuary

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