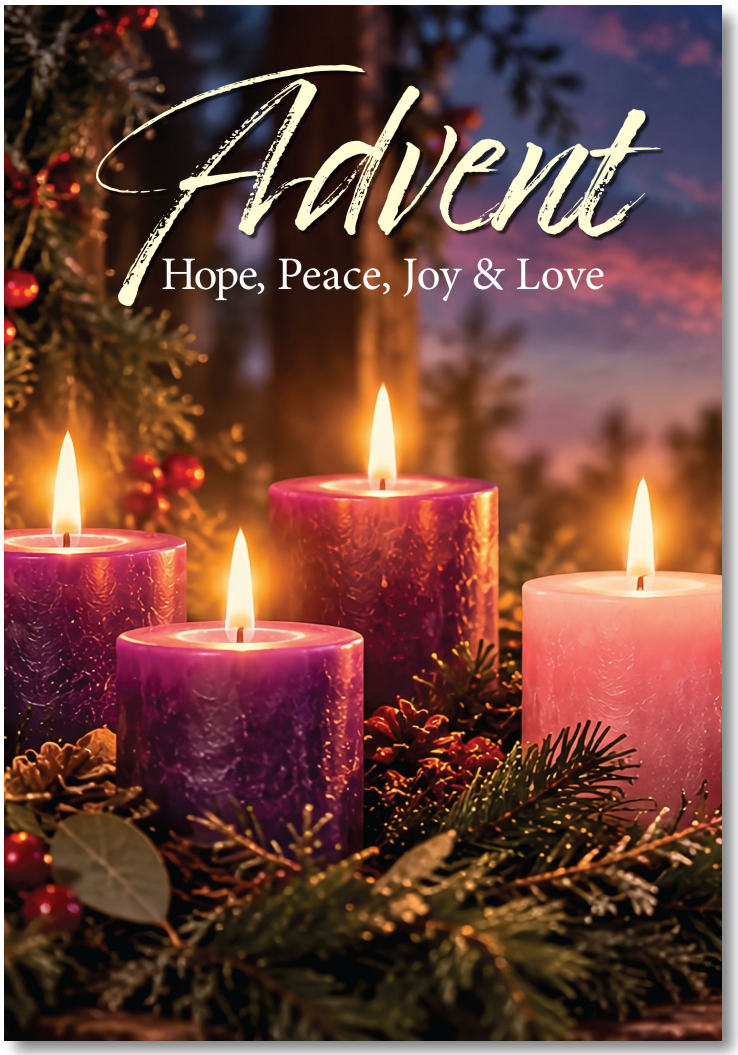
MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.



November 29, 2026

11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"Faith and hope are the wings by which our souls, rising above the world, are lifted up to God." - John Calvin (AtoZ Quotes)

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 James Lackey

The Community Gathers

Prelude *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Mark Hayes

***Call to Worship** Val Cunningham

Leader: O Emmanuel, our King and giver of the law,
the people await you, their Savior.

People: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Leader: O Wisdom, you came from the lips of God most high,
and you reach from one end of the universe to the other,
powerfully and gently ordering all things.

People: Come to teach us the way of prudence.

Leader: O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel,
you appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush
and at Sinai you gave him the law:

People: Come with your outstretched arm to save us.

Leader: O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign to the peoples;
before you kings are silent and the Gentiles pray with longing:

People: Come now and set us free.

Leader: O Key of David and ruler of the house of Israel,
you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open:

**People: Come and lead out of the prison house the captives
who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

Leader: O Morning Star, you are the splendor of eternal life;
you are the dawning sun, the Sun of justice:

**People: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.**

Leader: O King of the nations and the fulfillment of their longing,
you are the Cornerstone and you make all one;
you formed us from primeval clay:

People: Come and save us.

***Opening Hymn 139** *All Earth Is Waiting* TAULÉ

Invocation Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Musical Response 119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(verse 1)

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 Proclaims God's Word

Light in the Darkness James Lackey, Tim Stephens
Lighting the Advent Wreath

Special Music *Will You Light a Candle?* Katie Houts
(verse 1 on the music insert)

The Chrismon Tree Joan Holland, Mia Martin
Symbols of Christ, His Life and Ministry

Hymn 134 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* MCGEE

The Crèche
Born in Humility, Eternally Sovereign

Hymn 132 *When God Is a Child* MOON BEAMS
(verse 1)

Advent Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11 The Leslie Family

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, [when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades,] but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep. (NRSVUE)

¡Consuelen, consuelen a mi pueblo! —dice su Dios—. Hablen con ternura a Jerusalén y anúncienle que ya ha cumplido servicio obligatorio, que ya ha pagado por su iniquidad, que ya ha recibido de la mano del Señor el doble por todos sus pecados. Una voz proclama: «Preparen en el desierto un camino para el Señor; enderecen en el desierto un sendero para nuestro Dios. Se levantarán todos los valles y se allanarán todas las montañas y colinas; el terreno escabroso se nivelará y se alisarán las quebradas. Entonces se revelará la gloria del Señor, y la verá toda la humanidad. El Señor mismo lo ha dicho». Una voz dice:

«Proclama». «¿Y qué voy a proclamar?», respondo yo. «Que todo mortal es como la hierba y toda su gloria como la flor del campo. La hierba se seca y la flor se marchita, porque el aliento del Señor sopla sobre ellas. Sin duda, el pueblo es hierba. La hierba se seca y la flor se marchita, pero la palabra de nuestro Dios permanece para siempre». Portadora de buenas noticias a Sión, súbete a una alta montaña. Portadora de buenas noticias a Jerusalén, alza con fuerza tu voz. Álzala, no temas; di a las ciudades de Judá: «¡Aquí está su Dios!». Miren, el Señor y Dios llega con poder y con su brazo gobierna. Su galardón lo acompaña; su recompensa lo precede. Como un pastor que cuida su rebaño, recoge los corderos en sus brazos; los lleva junto a su pecho, y guía con cuidado a las recién paridas. (NVI)

The Community Responds

Sermon "The Exile Seeks Hope" Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Musical Response 121 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* PREPARE THE WAY

Prayers of the People Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

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.

Musical Response 131 *Song of Mary* Wyeth

Call to Giving Mark Holmgren

Musical Response 127 *Creator of the Stars of Night* (verse 4) CONDITOR ALME

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace Rev. Derek Wilkerson

During this time, please give your prayer requests to a choir member or Jeff Crouse at the piano. These will be placed on the table prior to communion.

Communion Hymn 122 *Comfort, Comfort You My People* GENEVA 42

Invitation to the Table Carol John

Prayer over the Elements Carol John

Words of Institution Rev. Derek Wilkerson

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Those serving will tear a piece of bread. You will

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.

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

Invitation to Join		Carol John
***Invitation Hymn 119**	*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*	GERMANY
***Benediction**		Rev. Derek Wilkerson
Postlude	*Savior of the Nations*	arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

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 affect our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet after worship with the Elder offering the invitation,
or contact the church office any time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter and Friday Flash emails for details and more.)

We welcome Rev. Derek Wilkerson as guest preacher today.
He is a Disciples of Christ ordained minister, who has served congregational and specialized settings throughout North Texas.

Alternative Christmas Gift Market is Dec. 6 in community hall.
In person follow-ups are Dec. 13 and 20 in the gathering space. Order online now - Dec. 20 at alternative-christmas.midwayhills.org.

Mike's Kids big bin is in the entry to the church through Dec. 6.
Now is the time to donate to improve the life of a child on the border. This year Mike's Kids is a family affair. The Celiz parents and children are involved in set up, collection, packing up and delivering the bounty of toys, underwear, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more that fill the bin each year.

First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch is Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Chocolate Angel Cafe & Tea Room, 635 W. Campbell Rd, Ste 310, Richardson. Please RSVP to Carol Hargis-Nation.

North Texas Area Disciples Women Christmas Celebration and Brunch
Saturday, December 5 at First Christian Church, 1800 W. Hunt Street, McKinney, TX. Registration at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is $12. Service Project: Toys for Tots. Please bring toys! RSVP by Dec. 1 at 214-908-4721 or debbraclay@yahoo.com.

Be part of worship this Advent and Christmas.
We're looking for individuals, couples, families, and groups who would like to help light the Advent wreath or share other readings during Advent and our Christmas Eve service. You don't need any special experience to participate! We'll provide the readings and instructions ahead of time, so all you need to bring is yourself. Click the link in The Echo to let us know which opportunities interest you.

Mark your calendar:
Elders Meeting - November 29, 12:30 p.m.
Cabinet Meeting - December 3, 7:00 p.m.
Finance Committee - December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting - December 20, 12:15 p.m.

Prayer Alcove - Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Adult Book Discussion - Sundays, 10:00 a.m., room 1

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

Prelude: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,* arr. Mark Hayes. ©2019 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Special Music: *Will You Light a Candle?* arr. Katie Houts. ©2026 Choristers Guild.

Postlude: *Savior of the Nations,* arr. Thomas Keesecker. ©2024 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:
Lynne Stokes and her daughter Claire; Dan Gaylord, Johnny Mercer, James Lackey

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:
Roy Ludwick's sister, June; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins; Robin Copeland's brother, Wade Keller; Rev. Robert Schomp; Joan Hammons

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Nina Boothe	Gay and Jim Gilmore	Bryen Lackey
Frank and Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Lynne Stokes
Judy Mank	Chris & Jayne Sparrer	Elaine & Don Manworren

Sympathy to:
❖

Let's celebrate with joy:
- Clayton Cunningham's new job
- John O'Neal & Lowery Ferguson on beginning a new life in Mexico
- Our guests/visitors in worship in the sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:
- Those facing the difficulties of losing their employment
- Muslim community
- Religious freedom legislation
- Legislative sessions
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:
- **Being inclusive, pursuing justice, embracing diversity**
- For our city, state, and nation, prayerful engagement & participation in our democratic process
- Those working for peace in places of conflict and those caught in the cycles of violence
- Justice for the people of Ukraine and others struggling against oppression
- Justice for the Palestinian people
- Those who have limited access to health care and those working to expand access
- Those experiencing discrimination and oppression because of their gender identity, sexual orientation or gender expression
- Those struggling with food insecurity and those working to overcome it
- Those who work to create a larger Welcome Table

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent — **November 29**

9:45 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday Book Discussion, room 1
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
12:30 p.m. Elders Meeting

Tuesday — **December 1**

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

Thursday — **December 3**

6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
7:00 p.m. Cabinet Meeting
7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Saturday — **December 5**

9:30 a.m. Master Gardeners Yoga Class (until 10:30) community hall

Second Sunday of Advent — **December 6**

9:00 a.m. Set-up for Alternative Christmas Gift Market (until 12:00) community hall
9:45 a.m. Choir practice
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday Book Discussion, room 1
11:00 a.m. Children's Church
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
12:00 p.m. Alternative Christmas Gift Market (until 1:30) community hall

MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

Douglass Anne Cartwright
Bookkeeper

TECH CREW
James Lackey
John Leslie

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Kate Lynch

NOVEMBER 29 DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

NOVEMBER 29 ELDER
Carol John

We record our services live and for social media use. Music reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-711616 and Christian Copyright Solutions license #15197. Hymns (unless noted) from Chalice Hymnal ©1995 Chalice Press. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) ©2021 National Council of Churches and the Society of Biblical Literature. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations from La Santa Biblia, Nueva Versión Internacional® NVI® Copyright 1999 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Midway Hills Christian Church · 11001 Midway Road, Dallas, TX 75229
www.midwayhills.org · 214-352-4841