

Mountain View Presbyterian Church
ADVENT

December 15, 2024

10:15 a.m.

* Please stand if you are able.

We invite you to prepare your heart & mind quietly before Worship in the Sanctuary.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor Larry Shores

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Take this time to meet & greet those seated around you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Beymer & Hill Family

"Wait for the Lord" by Jacques Berthier

Westminster Choir

Lighting the Candle of Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Larry Shores

Thus says the high and exalted One, Whose name is Holy, who lives forever:

"I will dwell in a high and holy place, but I also live with those who are broken and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, to restore the courage of the broken."

* HYMN

Words on the Screen

O Holy Night!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God,

We confess that we have often failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law,

We have rebelled against your love.

We have not loved our neighbors, and have been deaf to the cry of the needy.

Forgive us we pray, and free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Larry Shores

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

* Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

*John 14: 1-3
1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18*

New Testament page 102
New Testament page 193

SPECIAL MUSIC

Westminster Choir

*"O Holy Night"
By Tom Fettke*

SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 24: 37-44
Matthew 25: 1-13*

New Testament page 26

* DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

SERMON

Rev. Bob Dooling, Pastor Emeritus

Carols thru Time: "O Holy Night!"

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

Joyful Ringers

*"Still, Still, Still"
Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of man's life; social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes man's natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from his creation.

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in men and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

SCRIPTURE

New Testament page 17

Matthew 16: 13-18

* HYMN #2

Words on the Screen

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

MVPC Annual Christmas Lunch – After Worship Service
Living Nativity – Invite Friends & Family to this Saturday
Food Donations to House of Neighborly Service – Cart by the Church Office

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

Participants in today's service are:

Jim Work	Liturgist	Mira Mintcheva	Organ
Susan Chapman	Bell Director & Flute	Tamra Keller	Clarinet
David McArthur	Music Ministry Director	Alaina Bongers	Harp
Bill & Vanessa Beymer and Weston with Sandy Hill		Advent Family	



The Flowers given today are given by Steve & Pat Farnham in celebration of their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

Little Ones and Worship

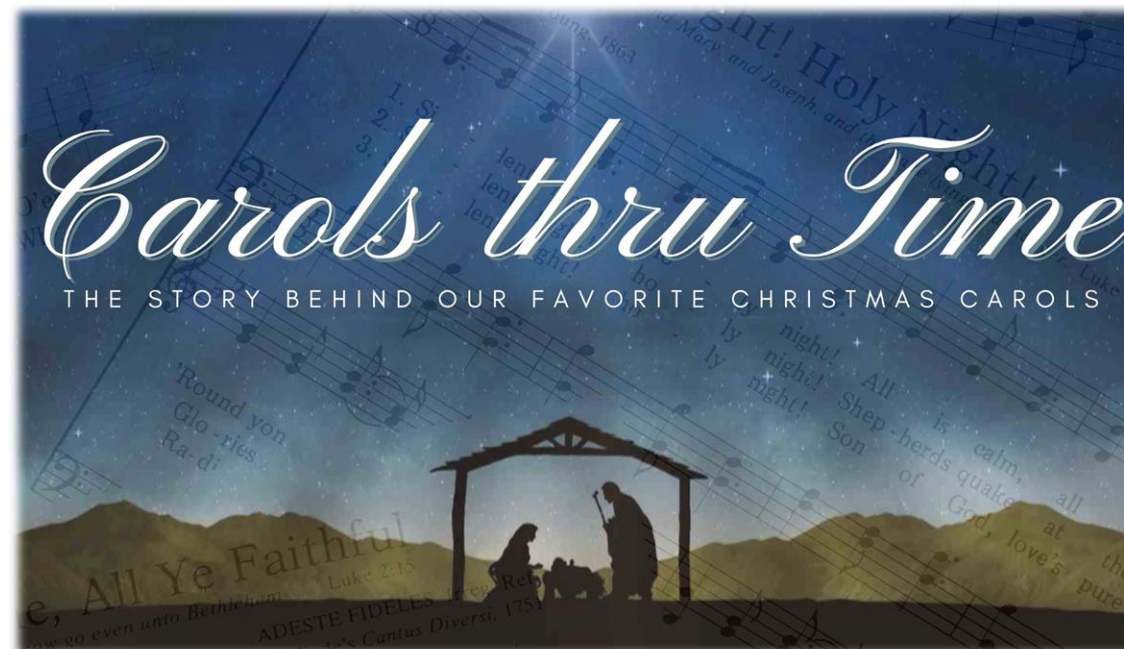
At MVPC, we love your children and we love to see families worshipping together! We also understand that children are at different development stages, so we have the MVPC Kid's Worship Training area and the Family Worship Room.

The **MVPC Kid's Worship Training Area** is located in the lobby area to the right of the Sanctuary doors. Items to help children understand the elements of worship are available as well as comfortable seating for children & adults.

The **Family Worship Room** is for very small children or ones needing a private area to change diapers, nurse, etc. (Room 110 / Nursery - please ask a Greeter to show you the way to the room in the Children's Hallway.)

MVPC Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm **CLOSED ON FRIDAYS IN DECEMBER**
970-663-3810



MVPC

Mountain View Presbyterian Church

2500 N. Garfield Avenue Loveland, Colorado 970-663-3810

www.myMVPC.com

The Reverend James H. Webb

Commissioned Pastor Larry Shores

The Reverend Tracee Hackel, Volunteer Theologian in Residence

The Reverend Robert D. Dooling, Pastor Emeritus

The Reverend Gary LeTourneau, Pastor Emeritus

December 15, 2024

Announcements

1. Living Nativity “Follow the Star” Dec 21 at 3pm

A fun-filled evening for ALL ages where we share the story of Christmas with the community. We are seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks before and during the event! Sign up in lobby or Church Office. Questions – connect with Kimberly Caldwell!



- **TODAY Dec 15:** Anyone wanting to help hang lights around, can help us after the church annual Christmas Lunch
- **Dec. 19:** Bring cookies, just drop them off the week of the event by Thursday. No need to bag them. Just an airtight container.
- **Dec 21:** If you are setting up, come at 1PM ready to work. If you are playing a Character, come at 2PM!

2. Bells of the Rockies Concert “Waes Hael” TODAY at 4:00pm

A concert of Ancient Carols will be presented by the Bells of the Rockies. If you are looking for quality in handbell performances, you've found the right group. Serving Colorado, Wyoming, and surrounding areas in a variety of settings. Come enjoy the sounds of the season. Free will Offering.

3. MVPC Newsletter

The December newsletter is out! With the recent changes in the Church Office, we would appreciate it if you would let us know if you DID NOT receive the newsletter by your requested delivery (i.e. Online/Email or US Postal Service). Please send an email to Christy@mymvpc.com or call the Church Office during the week so we can make the appropriate changes. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

3. Alternative Giving

Alternative Giving is in full swing. Please visit the display table in the lobby before or after worship service to pick up your brochure/giving slip. Representatives from the Mission Committee will be available to help. Brochures are also available in the church office during the week. Make a difference in the life of a person in need.

5. Christmas Poinsettias – LAST SUNDAY TO ORDER YOURS!

Deacons will once again be taking orders for Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary on Christmas. Sign-up can be done in person on the first three Sundays in December (1, 8, and 15) before and after worship. In addition, orders may be placed online at www.myMVPC.com December 15 under the Give tab. The cost of each Poinsettia is again \$25 and requested to be paid at time of sign-up. Plants may be taken home after the last Christmas Eve service or designated for donation.

6. PW Holiday Gift Drive – EXTENDED THRU TODAY!!

PW will be collecting unwrapped Christmas gifts November 24 - December 15 with bins in the Office area and the Narthex. Lists of suggested gifts will be provided on the bins, on the PW bulletin board, and at the office reception desk area. The Center is very appreciative of our gifts, as some of their residents have no family in the area. We can show our Christian love by sharing our resources with them to brighten the Christmas season.

7. End of the Year Donations & Gifts

This is a friendly reminder that Year End Donations and Gifts, in order to be counted as contributed in 2024 MUST BE turned into the Church Office by MONDAY, DEC 30, 2024, BY 3:00pm (as we are closed Tuesday Dec 31, 2024) OR they MUST BE POSTMARKED DEC 31, 2024. All others will be counted for the year 2025 giving.

8. HNS Donations

Carts for donations to House of Neighborly Service are located in the Lobby and across from the Reception Desk in the Church Office. Thank you for continuing to remember others.

9. TLC Prayer List

To place a name on the TLC list you must first have permission from the individual.

There are cards in the pew holders you can fill out and place in the offering plate, email tlc@mymvpc.com, or call the office and the receptionist can get the information. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office. PAPER COPY of the MVPC Weekly TLC Prayer List may be picked up at the Church Office Receptionist Desk during the week.

Weekly Schedule

SUN 12/15	10:15 am 11:15 am 4:00 pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP MVPC Annual Christmas Luncheon Bells of the Rockies “Waes Hael” Concert	Sanctuary Room 101 Sanctuary
MON 12/16	5:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Chapel
TUES 12/17	8:30 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 3:00pm 7:30 pm	Staff Meeting Deacon Leadership Meeting PP&C Committee Stewardship & Finance Committee MVPC goes to “FACE Vocal Band” - ticketed	Off-Site Office Area Meeting Room 1 Library Rialto
WED 12/18	8:00 am 12:00 pm 1:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men’s Breakfast Burrito Making for Community Kitchen Poetry Hour with Prof Jim Work Westminster Choir Rehearsal	At the Village Inn Life Center Room 100 Sanctuary
THURS 12/19	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	Companions Joint Meeting of Session & Deacons	Sanctuary Lobby Sanctuary Lobby
FRI 12/20		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
SAT 12/21	12:00 pm 2:00 pm 3 – 5:00pm	LIVING NATIVITY “Follow The Star” Set-Up Crew Character Actors, Food Volunteers, Participants “FOLLOW THE STAR” Living Nativity	Sanctuary Lobby Room 100 U-Shaped Drive
SUN 12/22	10:15 am 4:00 pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT WORSHIP Harp Quartet Concert	Sanctuary Sanctuary

John 14: 1-3

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18

16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 24: 37-44

37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Matthew 25: 1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."

10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."

12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."

13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 16: 13-18

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

O Holy Night!

1 Oh, holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices!
Oh, night divine, oh, night when Christ was born!
Oh, night divine, oh night, oh, night divine!

2 Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!
Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Translator: John S. Dwight; Author: Placide Cappeau (1847)

Tune: CANTIQUE DE NOEL

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Authors: Charles Wesley, Rowland Hugh Prichard

Tune: HYFRYDOL

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