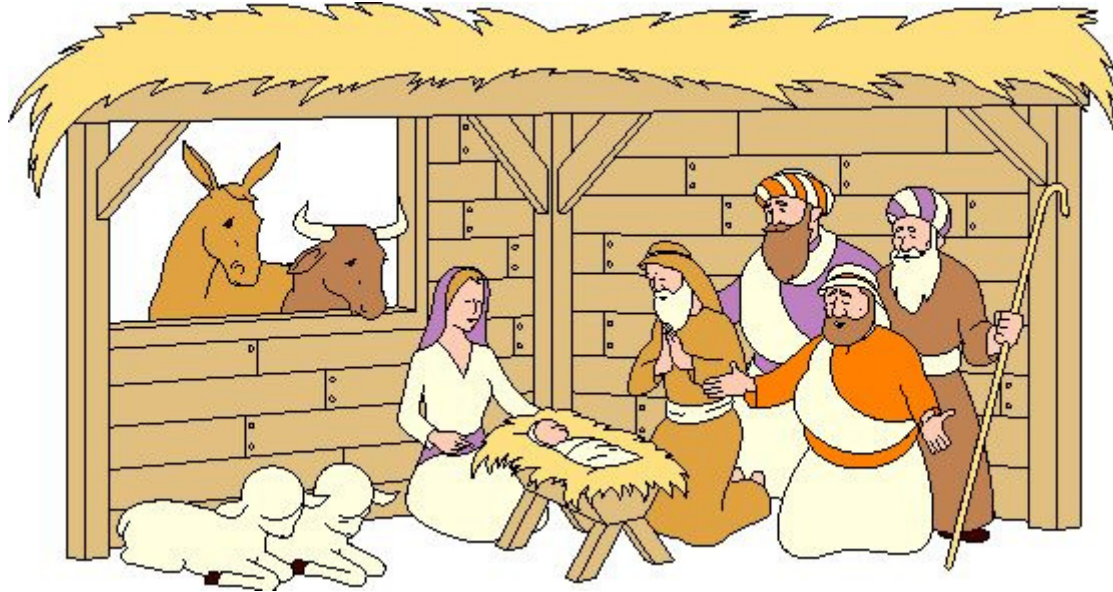


Mountainside Methodist Church



Come Celebrate Christmas with Us

Celebration of Worship

Welcome!

We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. We pray that God blesses you with His presence as you have blessed us with yours this Christmas season.

Christmas Eve - Carols, Candles and Communion Service

Prelude Music

Call to Worship

Leader: Through the weeks of Advent we have focused on hope, peace, joy and love by lighting candles

People: **We celebrate the gift God has given us through the birth of Jesus**

Leader: It is a great miracle that God was revealed in the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago.

People: **The fruit of that miracle is that Christ is born in our hearts today!**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Michael & Lindy Rech

On the eve of our Christmas celebration, Jesus' birthday, we light all of the candles of the Advent Wreath. First we light the candle for HOPE because Jesus is our hope. Second we light the candle for PEACE because Jesus is our hope and peace. Third, we light the candle for JOY because Jesus brings joy. Fourth, we light the candle for LOVE because Jesus is love. Finally we light the center candle. This is the CHRIST candle. Jesus is born. Jesus has come. Jesus is our salvation. From Galatians 4:4 we have these words from the Apostle Paul saying...

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law"

Prayer in Unison: Great God of love and light, we thank you for the light of the star that over two thousand years ago that guided the shepherds and wise men to the baby Jesus. Lead us now, by the light of your love to celebrate with great joy the birthday of our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Carol**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Hymnal No. 218

***Welcome, Registration of Attendance and Greeting**

Rev. John R. Rech

Advent Reading

Luke 2:1-14

Meredith Merkley

*Carol	What Child is This	Hymnal No. 219
Advent Reading	Luke 2:15-20	Ryan Krout
Solo	<i>Breath of Heaven</i>	Nicole Reynolds
Message	God's Unusual Ways – Part 4 The Birth of a King	Rev. Rech

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up in joy and praise

Leader: Let us give thanks to the One who comes in human flesh this night

People: We delight in giving God thanks and praise

Leader: Throughout the ages you have been our Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

You alone are glory and majesty, truth, and righteousness. We join
with the heavenly chorus of angels saying...

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all.

Leader: As you promised through your prophet Isaiah, your grace appeared
bringing salvation to all, born an infant of peasant parents in a stable
in Bethlehem. The shepherds heard your angel messengers and saw
for themselves your glory in that bed of straw.

**People: Then this your son grew in grace and wisdom, he taught and
healed, walked with sinners and ate with outcasts, how he showed
us a new way of salvation through his death and resurrection.**

Leader: Jesus was able to touch simple things - bread, wine, water, lives -
and let your glory and grace shine through them.

People: Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace.

Leader: By your Spirit touch our lives this night. Shine through these
elements of bread and juice, through the faces and lives in this room.
Make us a people of your own, who are zealous for life in Christ.

People: Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace.

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Service of Communion in the United Methodist Church

In the United Methodist Church we practice open communion. You do not have
to be a member of this church to participate in this service.

We serve communion by Intinction (Latin for “dipping in”). A piece of bread
will be torn from the loaf and placed in your hands and then you take the bread
and dip it into the cup and then receive the elements. If you are allergic to

various breads, an alternative bread is also available in a bowl.

*Lighting of Congregational Candles

The ushers will light the candles from the center aisle. Tilt your candle to
receive the flame; straighten it, then offer the flame to the person next to you.

*Carol

Hymnal No. 239

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing. Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

*Christmas Blessing

*Postlude

Organist: Dee Short

Pianist: Karen Blackmore

Ushers : Fran & Carol Nimick

Candlelight: Michael and Lindy Rech

Greeters: Earl & Judy
Robinson

Communion Servers: Jim & Patti Forsythe, Greg
& Patti Mitchell, Dan & Rebecca Wacker

Mountainside United Methodist Church

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Web page: www.mountainsidemethodist.org

Rev. John R. Rech – Pastor

8:00 p.m. Worship Service

December 24, 2009