



[Link to zoom worship at 9:00 on Sunday](#)

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## **December 10, 2023 + Second Sunday of Advent**

### **Welcome**

**Prelude:** Alex Seman

### **Call to Worship**

Come! Listen! A voice cries out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**We come, and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

Pay attention! God is removing barriers and leveling the playing field, making a way for all people to witness the glory of the Lord.

**We pay attention,  
and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

We wait, and we work as God's landscapers,  
filling in valleys and making rough places a plain,  
bringing justice where conflicts and obstacles once reigned.

**We wait, and we work in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim  
and our hands to get messy as our lives declare  
the coming of our Savior and Comforter.

**We come to worship and to grow in the just peace of Jesus Christ,  
the coming Messiah. Amen.**

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, awaken us to action;

to prepare a way in the wilderness for your coming,  
clearing the brush of oppression, injustice, and hopelessness—  
so that all may see your light and perceive your coming.

Help us work consistently toward peace, reconciliation,  
and participation in your mission for creation.  
In our hearts, we long to be your people,  
to carry out your mission, to be lights in the darkness—  
proof that no darkness can overcome your truth. **Amen.**

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

Reader:

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "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"

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

**All: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.**

Reader: May these candles of hope and peace be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

**All: We light this Candle of Peace as a sign that we will be present with Peace in the world.**

**Prayer of Presence:**

**Holy Living Light of God,  
you are our Peaceful Presence.**

**Let this peace grow in our lives each day,  
so we can be a Present of Peace to others.**

**Unwrap and open our hearts.**

**May it be so.**

**Amen.**

**Song of Faith:** Hovey Corbin

**Affirmation of Faith**

Leader:

There is one God  
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,  
who came as a ransom for all,  
to whom we testify.

People:

**This saying is sure  
and worthy of full acceptance:  
That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,  
and was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated in the spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.**

**Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.**

**Scripture:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**Message: Peace**

Rev. Blaine Wimberly

**Song of Faith:** Hovey Corbin

**Generosity Moment:**

**Offertory Prayer:**

Almighty God, we are reminded that we are called to prepare the way, to be the designers of peace, the builders of justice, the producers of kindness. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the Christ who comes in love and compassion. May our giving in this season reflect our hope for peace to reign in our world. We pray this in the name of the Messiah, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

**Musical Response**

O come, you Splendor very bright,  
as joy that never yields to might.  
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,  
that greed and war at last shall cease.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

**Announcements**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Prayer Song:** *Believe*

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Song of Faith:** Hovey Corbin

**Benediction**

**Fellowship Time**

## **Mountainside United Methodist Church**

**Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of our community and the world.

**Vision:** To be a thriving Christ-led people in the East Mountains,  
inviting all generations to a transforming experience of God's Grace.

WORSHIP + CONNECT + GROW + SERVE

## Announcements and Calendar

*We are glad you are online with us today!  
Please register your attendance and your joys and concerns in the  
chat box.*

**Choir practice** has been moved to Sunday morning following the 10:30 service. If you've ever considered singing with the choir, you're invited to come check it out.

Mountainside is giving **Christmas boxes** again this year. Thank you for your abundant donations of non-perishable food. We are now accepting monetary donations for perishable items. Packing day is December 16. To donate food or help with packing, please contact Jane Leigh, coordinator.

### Church Events

#### **Monday, December 10**

9:30 Line Dancing in the gym with Linda  
3:00 Teatime online

#### **Tuesday, December 11**

9:00 Holy Yoga in the sanctuary with Connie

#### **Wednesday, December 12**

1:30 Line Dancing in the gym with Linda  
5:30 Kids' Connection - Advent

#### **Thursday, December 13**

3:00 Teatime Online  
5:00 Worship Committee on Zoom

#### **Saturday, December 16**

**9:00 Packing Christmas boxes**  
**11:00 Distribution of boxes**

#### **Sunday, December 17; Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 Sunday Morning Live  
9:00 The Breakfast Club adult Sunday School  
10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary  
11:45 Choir practice in the Round Room

#### **Looking Ahead:**

**Wednesday, December 20 5:30 pm Messy Church**  
**Thursday, December 21 6:00 pm Blue Christmas service**  
**Sunday, December 24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve service**  
**Sunday, December 31 New Year's at Noon in the MAC**  
**Sunday, December 31 11:00pm Watch Night service on Zoom**

### Community Events

#### **Acton Academy**

Monday-Friday in upstairs classrooms

**Twelve Step Groups**

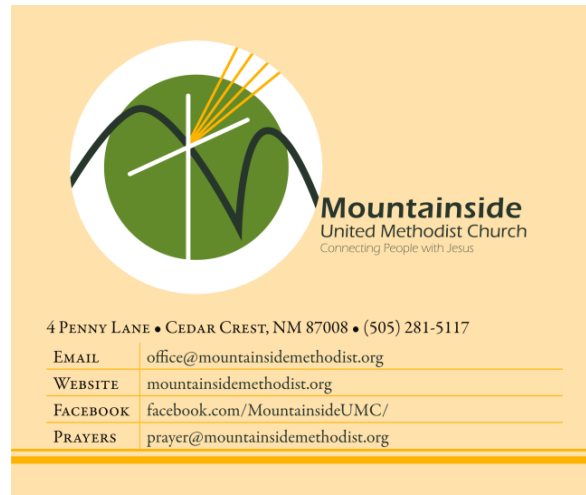
AA meets in the Fellowship Hall M, W, F noon; and T, Th 4:30 pm;  
men's group on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
Al-Anon meets in the Fellowship Hall Friday 10:00 am

**Fitness**

Dance Aerobics in the gym Wednesday 9:00 am  
Dance Fitness in the gym Friday 9:00 am

**Upward**

Evaluation, Registration, and Training ongoing;  
practice sessions have Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.



Check us out on our website address:  
*[www.mountainsidemethodist.org](http://www.mountainsidemethodist.org)*

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