



# Hyattsville Mennonite Church

A Christ-centered welcoming church committed to peace & justice.

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## Gathering for Worship

VT – *Voices Together* hymnal (purple)

Prelude

## Praising

Call to Worship (*adapted from 2 Peter 3*)

Beloved,

The Lord is not slow about the promises to us, for with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day.

We wait for the Lord to come to us, impatient.

The Lord waits for us to come to the Lord, with patience.

So that all may be given the gifts.

And what gifts are these? What is it we wait for?

**We wait for new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is at home.**

**While we wait,**

**we call on the presence of Peace to be found with us, perfect and complete.**

Hymn: VT 218 – *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting the Advent Candle (*with Psalm 85*)

The gift of Christ's peace reminds us that we can have serenity even in the midst of non-peaceful situations.

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict.

Peace is an ever-present gift that we can open at any time when we stop, breathe, and trust that we are never alone.

And the gift of peace we can give is to be present for those who feel alone.

**Let us hear what the Lord would speak when the Lord speaks peace to the people, to the faithful, to those who turn to the Lord.**

**Kindness and truth have met; justice and peace have kissed.**

**Truth from the earth will spring up as justice from the heavens looks down.**

**Justice goes before the Lord; the Lord follows the path of justice.**

# Confessing

Confession  
Words of Assurance

Hymn: VT 239 – *He Came Down*

# Hearing The Word

Scripture Sketchers: *Mark 1:1-8*

Scripture Reading  
Mark 1:1-8

**Message:** *Being Present with Peace*  
Hymn: VT 212 – *Comfort, Comfort O My People*

# Responding

Responses  
Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Praying Together

Work of the Church  
Welcoming our Guests  
Announcements

The Ministry of Giving  
Children's Offering  
Advent Offering: *Immigrant and Refugee Outreach Center (IROC)*  
Offertory  
Prayer of Dedication

# Sending

Hymn: VT 240 – *Joy to the World*  
Benediction

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## Lectionary for Next Sunday

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;  
Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

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## Calendar

- Dec. 17:** *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*, Messiah Sing-a-long, 11:00 a.m.
- Dec. 21:** *Longest Night Service*, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24:** *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*, Cindy preaches, 11:00 a.m.
- Dec. 31:** *Lessons & Carols*, 11:00 a.m.
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## Announcements

**Mennonite Day of Action for a Ceasefire, Dec. 19:** On Tuesday, Dec. 19, Mennonites across Canada and the US will hold demonstrations at their representatives' offices to ask them to support a ceasefire in Gaza. Over 200 Mennonites from 93 different congregations have already signed up to participate. Stay tuned for more information about our local demonstration.

**Longest Night Service, Dec 21:** This year in lieu of a Christmas Eve evening service, HMC is holding a "Longest Night" service on Thursday, Dec. 21, the winter solstice, at 7:30 p.m. The holiday season can often be busy and exhausting so we invite you to take a pause for some quiet amidst the festive frenzy. All are invited to this service of poems, scripture, silence, and music.

**Volunteers needed for December 28 Day Center Meal:** We need volunteers to prepare chili and fixings, cornbread, brownies, fruit and bottled water for the meal on Thursday, December 28 at the [PG Plaza Day Center](#). If you can help, please sign up using the form in the listserv announcements.

**Advent/Christmas Offering:** This year's advent offering will go to the *Immigrant and Refugee Outreach Center (IROC)*, which serves the DMV area. IROC has served more than 3000 individuals, 30% of which do not receive any resettlement agency support. They are volunteer run and have only recently hired a part-time person to help coordinate contributions. Thank you for your generous donations.

**Advent Worship Art:** As we explore Being Present during the advent season, the worship arts display will also be present with us. Instead of a changing and progressive banner series, we will worship with the same banners throughout the season and see what they reveal to us the longer we are present with them. Small shifts may present themselves over time, or perhaps the changes will happen within us. Wherever the journey takes us, we invite you to practice being present with what is.

Church Year Theme

Grow Boldly



Assistive Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.