



Hyattsville Mennonite Church

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

Vol. 71

December 31, 2023

No. 16

Gathering for Worship

VT – *Voices Together* hymnal (purple)

Prelude

Handbell Choir

Praising

Call to Worship (*Isaiah 61:10-11*)

I will greatly rejoice in the Holy One,

who is the joy of my soul!

My God has clothed me with a robe of deliverance
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,

**as brides and grooms deck themselves with garlands
and adorn themselves with jewels.**

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

And a garden brings its seeds to blossom,

So the Exalted One makes justice sprout,

And praise spring up before all nations.

Hymn: VT 241 – *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Lighting the Advent Candles

Confessing

Confession

Hearing The Word

Lesson 1: Adam and Eve. *Genesis 3: 8–19*

Hymn: VT 236 – *Creator of the stars of night*

Lesson 2: The Prophet. *Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7*

VT 259 – *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

Lesson 3: Joseph and Mary. *Luke 2: 1–7*

Joseph (*from The Manger Monologues, by Melvin Schmidt*)*

Joseph, Dearest Joseph Mine

Mary (*from The Manger Monologues*)

Hymn: VT 267 – *What Child Is This*

VT 268 – *Helpless and Hungry*

Lesson 4: Shepherds and Angels. *Luke 2:8–20*

Hymn: VT 252 – *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Lesson 5: Simeon and Anna. *Luke 2:21–40*

Hymn: VT 246 – *Come, Join in Mary’s Prophet-Song*

Responding

Responses

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Praying Together

Hymn: VT 682 – *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

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

Lesson 6: Christ, the Eternal Word. *John 1:1–14*

Hymn: VT 247 – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Benediction

Lectionary for Next Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Announcements

*Melvin Schmidt, who served as pastor at HMC from 1993 to 2004, started writing *The Manger Monologues* when he was pastor at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church (Wichita, Kansas) in the 1970s. The six monologues (Joseph, Mary, Shepherd, Innkeeper, Census-Taker, and Scholar) have enriched Christmas Eve services in several congregations over those 50 years. The complete set is published in Melvin's memoir, *Wholly Holey Holy: Reverent (and not so Reverent) Recollections of a Reverend* (2016).

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.
