



Hyattsville Mennonite Church

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

Vol. 72

December 15, 2024

No. 14

Gathering for Worship

Prelude (*O Holy Night*)

Praising

Call to Worship

Why do we gather this morning?

We gather here to wonder, to consider, to expect.

Where is our hope in this Advent?

**We place our hope in the darkness,
an unknown-but-promised new reality.**

In what will we find peace this season?

**We will find peace waiting for the fruits of seeds planted long ago,
spoken in the mouths of prophets and poets.**

How will our joy come?

**Our joy comes by dwelling in what we know to be true,
staying present to what is on its way,
and noticing the small movements of the Spirit.**

Whatever we are feeling in this moment—

anticipation, joy, worry, or fear—

**we bring it all with us in worship this morning,
trusting God to meet us and walk with us.**

Hymn: 218 – *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Centering Breath Prayer

Confessing

Confession

Hymn: 237 – *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Hearing The Word

Time for Children
(children are invited downstairs for Children's Church)

Scripture Sketchers

Scripture Reading
James 5:7-8

Message: **Patience in the Dark**

Hymn: 437 – *The Lord is My Light*

Responding

Responding

Responses to the Message
Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Praying Together

Life of the Church

Welcoming our Guests
Announcements

Ministry of Giving

Advent Offering: Asylum Seeker Project
Children's Offering
Offertory (*You are invited to come forward with your offerings.*)
Prayer of Dedication

Sending

Hymn: 240 – *Joy to the World*

Benediction

Lectionary for Next Sunday

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Calendar

- Dec. 15:** *Youth Christmas Party, after the service*
Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal, after the service
- Dec. 19:** *Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.*
- Dec. 20:** *Longest Night Service, 8:00 p.m.*
- Dec. 22:** *Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cynthia Lapp preaches, 11:00 a.m.*
- Dec. 24:** *Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service, 5:00 p.m.*
- Dec. 29:** *Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.*
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Announcements

Longest Night Service, Dec. 20: Join us for a service of prayerful reflection as we navigate what it means to wait in the darkness. We will grieve, pray, sing, and sit in silence. For our losses. For our missing loved ones. For the people of Gaza. For our undocumented siblings. For all that is to come. The Longest Night service will begin at **8:00 p.m.** outside around a campfire. Come dressed warmly. ****Please note that this service will be held on *Friday, Dec. 20*, NOT Dec. 21 (the actual longest night of the year).**

Volunteers needed for December 26 Day Center Meal: We need volunteers to prepare dishes and provide fruit for the meal on Thursday, Dec. 26 at the [PG Plaza Day Center](#). ***We also need volunteers to pick up items from the church house kitchen and take them to the day center*** and to sign up to help serve the meal. Sign up with the link in the listserv announcements.

Hospitality Night, Jan. 26: Back by popular demand, save the date for Hospitality Night on Sunday, Jan. 26. Stay tuned for more details about this evening of fun and fellowship.

Advent Offering: This year's Advent offering will go towards the church's Asylum Seeker program, in which we support someone seeking asylum. In the past few years, we have supported a mother and daughter from Venezuela, a trans-woman from Saudi Arabia and a woman from Afghanistan.

Advent Worship Arts: Our theme for Advent this year is The Holy in the Night, based on the book by Shannon Dycus. Our worship arts installation for this season is a night sky of collaged layers of comforter batting in compositions of abstract clouds and deep space formations. At the ends of each pew, you will find a basket of scrap pieces of the batting material. You are invited to hold a piece during worship each week as a sensory aspect of worship.

Church Year Theme
Cultivating Community, Deepening Joy



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