



# Hyattsville Mennonite Church

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

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No. 14

## Gathering For Worship

Prelude

## Praising

Call to Worship

One: We gather together in this place:

**All: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**

One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

**All: we who dare to dream God's dream.**

One: We sing with Elizabeth and Mary.

**All: Our spirits rejoice in God, our savior!**

One: We bless the God of justice and joy,

**All: who lifts up the lowly and vulnerable.**

One: God's mercy is upon us all,

**All: from generation to generation.**

One: Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

**All: We have come to wonder and praise.**

Hymn: 210 – *O Come, O Come, Immanuel (verses 1, 4, 6, 7)*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

**All: Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it. We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.**

*Lighting of the first candle*

**We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us.**

*Lighting of the second candle*

Leader: Close your eyes for a moment...

**All: Today, we also light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty.**

## Confessing

Confession

One: Answering the invitation of God,  
who loves justice and promises us mercy,  
let us confess our sin.

**All: God of joy,  
you created this world for joy and flourishing.  
We confess that we construct barriers  
to protect our happiness, even at the expense of others.  
We fill ourselves with good things,  
taking no heed of those who are left empty.  
We ignore oppression when it benefits our interests.  
We dismiss the brokenhearted when we feel inconvenienced.  
We crave power over liberation.  
Remember us in compassion and come to our aid.  
Tear down our dividing walls.  
Scatter our pride and reawaken the imagination of our hearts.  
Lead us again in the work of repair and restoration.  
We pray in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.**

*Silence*

Words of Assurance

Hymn: 213 – *Poor of the Earth*

# Hearing the Word

A Time for Children

Scripture Sketchers

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4

Message: **Joy Leaping**

Michelle Burkholder & Becky Hass

Hymn: 412 – *My Soul Cries Out*

## Responding

Responding to the Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

*Please come forward to the mic if you wish to share something.*

Praying Together

Life of the Church

Welcoming our Guests

Announcements

Ministry of Giving

Advent Offering to CAN

Children's Offering

*Children are invited to bring their offering forward at this time*

Offertory: *Mary's Tune*

*You are invited to bring your offering forward at this time*

Prayer of Dedication

## Sending

Hymn: 240 – *Joy to the World*

Benediction

# Building a Joy Jar

Gathering small moments of joy  
throughout the day

I experienced joy  
today when:

Today I am  
grateful for:

I felt seen today  
when:

I lived my values  
today when: