



# Hyattsville Mennonite Church

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

Vol. 73

December 21, 2025

No. 15

## Gathering For Worship

Prelude: *from Handel Suite in D minor, HWV 437: Prelude: Allemande, Courante*

## 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 speak out with Zechariah.

**All: God's name be blessed forever!**

One: For God has remembered us in mercy,

**All: and remained faithful to us in love.**

One: Because of God's tender compassion,

**All: the dawn from on high will rise over us.**

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

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

Hymn: 218 –*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One: 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.**



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



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



Person A: Close your eyes for a moment...

**All: Today, we also light the candle of love because love makes the impossible possible.**



## Confessing

Confession

One: Through the holy prophets of old, God gives us knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our failings. Let us approach the God who loves us, naming our need for redemption.

**All: God of love, you teach us songs of praise and call us to proclaim justice. We confess the ways that we instead use our words and voices in ways that cause harm.**

**We share half-truths, spread gossip, and speak unkindly.**

**We fail to speak up for the vulnerable.**

**We pay lip service to our faith instead of taking risks in the name of love.**

**Help us to love you and our neighbors with courage and conviction, in word and in deed. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Words of assurance

Hymn: 215 – *Oh How Shall I Receive Thee*

## Hearing the Word

A Time for Children

Scripture Sketchers

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 57-79

Message: **Love across Generations**

Cynthia Lapp

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

## 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: from *Handel Suite in D minor, HWV 437: Sarabande with two Variations.*

Offering

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

Prayer of Dedication

## Sending

Hymn: 258 – *Love has Come*

Benediction

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## Lectionary for Next Sunday

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

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## Calendar

**TODAY:** Fourth Sunday in Advent, Cynthia Lapp preaches, 11 a.m.

**Dec. 24:** Service of *Lessons and Carols*, 5 p.m.

**Dec. 28:** Michelle Burkholder preaches, 11 a.m. (no adult ed)

**Jan. 4:** Epiphany pageant, 11 a.m.

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## Announcements

**Advent offering:** This year our advent offering supports Congregation Action Network (CAN). Our offerings go to support the hiring of a community organizer who can help CAN expand the work of connecting with the immigrant community, advocating for themselves and strengthening their community connections. We hope to contribute at least \$5,000 to CAN this season.