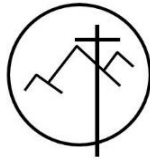


Mountain Community Mennonite Church  
Box 502  
Palmer Lake, CO 80133  
(719) 481-3155



**Sunday, December 18, 2016**

Join Us – We share God’s love by: Following Jesus,  
Reconciling Community and Building Peace

**Great Expectations**

God’s restoration is at hand.

Come, walk in the way of God’s heart.

**9:15am** *Gathering for Worship*

**9:30am** *Worship Begins*

**11:10am** *Discovery Hour*

Pastoral Team: Paul Johnson & Amy Zimbelman

Elders: Jake Eichelberger

Gayle Preheim

Rae Shellenberger

**e-mail**

Pastor: [mcmcpastor1@gmail.com](mailto:mcmcpastor1@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: [mcmcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mcmcsecretary@gmail.com)

Treasurer: [mcmctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mcmctreasurer@gmail.com)

Silver Key - Golden Circle Nutrition Program

Senior Lunch in the Sanctuary

12:00-12:30pm Monday-Friday

Reservations (719) 884-2304 Before 5:00am

Mountain Community Senior Services (719) 488-0076

*Service planned by MCMC Worship Commission*

**Sermon downloads available at <http://mcmcpl.org>**

**Order of Service**

**Speaker**

**Paul Johnson**

**Worship Leader**

**Gayle Preheim**

**Song Leader**

**Judy Thiessen**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**We Gather**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Time of Quieting**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: In the nighttime of our longing, we find ourselves  
far from God’s presence.

**People: Even though we yearn to see God’s face, our  
daily burdens and distractions keep us from  
coming near. We forget that the truest joy comes  
from being in God’s presence.**

**All: Come! Walk in God’s presence.**



**Candlelighting**

**Andy Vander Ploeg**

**STS 16 "Peace Before Us" (verses 2 & 3)**

**Praising**

**Advent Witness 4: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

**Congregation & Sharon Baker**

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who are enthroned  
upon the cherubim, shine forth!

**People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be  
saved.**

Leader: Let Your hand be upon the one at Your right hand, the  
one whom You made strong for Yourself.

**People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be  
saved.**

Leader: We will never turn back from You; give us life, and we  
will call upon Your name.

**People: Restore us, O God; Let Your face shine, that we may be  
saved.**

**Peace Moment**

**Steve Waiss, Gideons**

**We Grow in Worship**

**Prayer**

**Opening Hymns HWB #201 Hark! the herald angels sing**

**HWB #173 Savior of the nations, come!**

**Prayers of the People & Sharing the Graces**

**Congregational Hymns**

**HWB #199 The first Noel, the angel did say**

**HWB #193 Silent night**

**Offering and Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

Leader: God of restoration,

**People: We yearn to walk in Your way but often choose  
our own path of turmoil and pain. Save us, Lord,  
from the pride and foolishness of choosing our  
own course, that we may humbly and confidently  
follow Your lead, through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

Leader: Throughout the tumult of life, God holds you close in love. Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide, God's compassion is your strength. God's love is your redemption.

*All: Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!*

**Scriptures** Romans 1:5; Matthew 2:1-3

**Sermon** "Mystery Messengers"

### ***We Go Out to Serve***

**Sending Song** HWB 172 O Come, O Come, Immanuel

**Sending Prayer**

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart. The dawn is breaking! Christ is coming to free us from alienation. He will show us the way.

**Scriptures to assist you in preparing for Christmas:**  
*Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 148; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)*

### ***Sermon Notes***



**The Apostle Paul speaks of receiving the gifts of grace and apostleship (becoming a messenger). What is the way of the messenger of grace?**

## What's so disturbing about messengers of Hope?

To what message do we pay most attention?



### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

20 Terri Inloes 21 Rick Shellenberger 24 Linda Pankratz

### **Ongoing Events**

- Pastors Paul and Amy will be in the office Tuesday afternoon this week. Please call for appointments.
- MCMC Advent Bible study Tuesdays 5-6pm. Light snacks served. Please join us!
- Women's Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Fridays. Contact Rae Shellenberger at 719.213.6931.
- Men's Coffee each Saturday at 7am at Serrano's.
- "More than a Meal Ministries" 8am Saturdays at Legacy Wesleyan Church, 502 N. Walnut St., Colorado Springs, CO 80905.



## Upcoming Special Events

- **Today, December 18 is our annual Christmas brunch** at 11am. Join us for food, fellowship and caroling at the homes of Don & Marilyn Brenneman and Marti Hampton.
- **Christmas Eve service at 6:30pm Sat., Dec. 24** with wassail and cookies to follow. Please come, **bring cookies or goodies**, and invite your family & neighbors!
- **Christmas Day Sunday** service will be at our usual 9:30am gathering time.



## Opportunities to Help

**Please note the gift box by the Christmas tree!** Outreach Commission is asking you to open your hearts to these special offerings, helping two seniors, two young girls and one family in recovery following a tragic accident. Please consider giving to one of these causes for a brighter Christmas.

**As you Christmas shop**, please note colorful flyers on entry & sanctuary bulletin boards with MCC's Christmas Wish List.