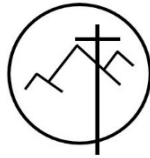


There will be a time of quiet meditation when the music stops

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



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

“We are a new creation in Christ, leading us in the
ministry of peace and reconciliation.” 2 Cor. 5

DATE: December 3, 2023

9:00 am: *Worship Begins*

Coffee

10:00: Discovery Hour

Lead Pastor: Vern Rempel

vkrempel@gmail.com

soulreport.WordPress.com

Elders: Barb Eichelberger, Wilmer Villacorta

Information Technology Support: Wilmer Villacorta

Mountain Community Senior Services (719) 488-0076

Sermon downloads available at <http://mcmcp.org>

Please silence your cell phones. Thank You.

*at 9:00 am prior to the start of worship. We invite you to join in
this time of silence before our service begins. **

DATE: December 3 , 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Order of Service

Speaker

Vern Rempel

Worship Leader:

Angela Liew

Song Leader:

Vern Rempel

Sound room:

Jake Eichelberger

We Gather

Welcome

Announcements

Time of Quieting

Advent Candle Lighting:

Liew Family

Call to Worship:

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down so
that the mountains would quake at your presence.

**People: No one has heard. No one has perceived, no eye
has seen any God besides you,**

who works for those who wait for you.

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

People: How long must we wait?

All: Together we wait.

WE GROW IN WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymns: #221: The Angel Gabriel Called Mary
Blessed #223: Bless'd Be the God of Israel

Prayers of the people and sharing the grace.....

Congregational Hymn: #65: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep
Silent

Offering and Prayer:

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Confession):

Let us pray: We come singing songs of hope, this morning.
Though we may not be inspired much right now, we still
sing. Though it may take us time to sit with our hampered
thoughts and sift through the growing pile of despair, we
still sing. In spite of everything ridiculous and sad—
Though we may be beyond belief, depressed, confused,
and mad—Some of us got dressed, and Some of us made it
out of bed or out the door and we still sing of hope.
God, remind us that we have gotten through a lot of things
we didn't think we could—that you have not left us nor
forsaken us—That our individual and collective ancestors
still sang new songs in the valleys of death. And so, we still
sing, too. Embolden us as we try to show the world the we
can find hope even when it seems impossible to bear.
Hope must be there. Fear never wins. The work begins in
us. Amen.

Scriptures: I Corinthians 1: 3-9 NRSV

Sermon: Part of Something Grand

We Go Out to Serve

Sending Song : #212: Comfort, Comfort, O My People
Sending Prayer

***Your worship service today was planned by the MCMC
Worship Commission.***

*Please return the hymnals to boxes provided at back of
sanctuary. Exit promptly to Narthex. Thank you*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Paul Johnson B
Joseph Liew B

December 3
December 10

MCMC

Mountain States Conference New

Snow Camps are coming again in 2024!

Jr. High.....January 19-21
Scrapbook Retreat.....January 26-28
Sr. High.....February 16-18
Young Adult.....February 16-18

Check out the latest [Zing! newsletter here!](#)

The Leadership Board of Mountain States Mennonite Conference is exploring a conversation about the borders of our conference. We have had churches in other states in the region show interest in becoming part of our conference, so it raises questions of our geography and what it might look like to welcome additional congregations--or not. As part of this discernment process, the conference minister has been informally surveying pastors individually and at their pastors meetings, but we'd also like to hear from you. What are your thoughts? If you have a strong opinion on the topic after reading this paragraph, please reach out to Ryan Koch ryank@mountainstatesmc.org or Amy Zimbelman at amyz@mountainstatesmc.org. Also, be on the lookout for a Zoom forum or two in early 2024 so conference leaders can hear from anyone interested in engaging in a conversation about the pros and cons of opening our conference's borders beyond Colorado and New Mexico. Thank you for your thoughts!

Bookkeeper or treasurer? Would you like to serve the church with your skills? **Mountain States Mennonite**

Conference seeks a conference treasurer [Job description listed here](#). Qualified candidates please send your resume and the names and contact info for 2 references to Amy Zimbelman amyz@mountainstatesmc.org.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Mennonite Church USA issued a statement on the Israel-Hamas War on Nov. 15. The statement laments the loss of life and stands on our shared Anabaptist faith values in a call for a ceasefire. Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/ceasefire/

The Center for Community Justice in Elkhart, Indiana, honored Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Church USA's denominational minister for Peace & Justice, for her work in restorative justice at an event celebrating the 45th anniversary of its Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/ccj-honors

Menno Snapshots

This fall, several Mennonite Church USA congregations from Northwest Ohio worked with RAWtools and Mennonite Central Committee to host a community event about gun safety. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/gun-safety-ohio

During the Korean War, Sue Park-Hur's Aunt Hwasil was separated from her mother and brothers. After 40 years, she was finally able to reunite with her family, a privilege that many other Korean families have not been able to enjoy. Park-Hur is Mennonite Church USA's director of racial/ethnic engagement. Read her blog here: mennoniteusa.org/korean-family-reunion

Learn more about MCC's advocacy response to the violence in Palestine and Israel [here](#). MCC also offers resources for better understanding the situation and ways to financially support a humanitarian response in Gaza:

[Palestine Israel booklet](#)
[Disaster response initiatives](#)
[A Cry for Home, MCC's advocacy response](#)
FROM AMBS...

New Vision issue on "Family" available for free online. The Fall 2023 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD — explores how the church can play a positive role in supporting families without relying on a narrow understanding of the ideal family unit itself. ambs.edu/vision

Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 31 – March 12. Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. Instructors for this six-week AMBS Online Short Course are Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 10 to save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

FROM MENNONITE ACTION...

Learn more and sign up to **take action for peace** in Israel and Palestine with other Mennonites through Mennonite Action: <https://www.mennoniteaction.org/>

FROM MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY...

Once again this year, Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) is publishing an **Advent at Home** worship guide. The Advent at Home guide is intended for use through the weeks of Advent, which begins Dec. 3, and continuing through Epiphany. It includes scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities and contextual information. It is available on the Mennonite Education Agency

website: www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/advent-at-home.