

*You are invited to share your joys and concerns with the congregation. Please place them in the prayer basket at the back of the sanctuary (prayer request sheets are in the basket), or if online use Zoom Chat or Facebook Comments. Please indicate if the request is not public (i.e., for the pastor alone). Your financial offerings can be placed in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary. Restrooms are found near the kitchen, to the left as you exit the sanctuary.*



## **Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church**

**Pastor – Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo**

*The mission of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church is to be in partnership with God  
to transform ourselves, our communities, and our world.*

**Service for the Lord's Day – December 21, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Welcome**      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

We are lighting the Advent candles, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope.

**Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

**Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

The prophet Isaiah declares, "A young woman is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel [which means: God-With-Us]."

The risen Christ declares, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Isa. 7:14 and Matt. 28:20*)

**(Light the fourth candle.)**

We light this candle as a sign of God's presence in Christ, now and always.

That we may trust that God is with us and live in the light of Christ's coming—

**Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.**

**Sung Response (please remain seated)      Come and Fill Our Hearts ("Love")      (#466 GTG)**

*The accompanist will play through the tune once, and we will sing these verses two times.*

**Come and fill our hearts with your love. You alone, O Lord, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your love. Alleluia!**

### **Time of Silence for Companionship with God**

#### **Prelude**

#### **The Call to Worship (responsive)**

Jesus is coming but for now: **We wait**

Light is coming but for now: **We wait**

The angels will sing 'Glory to God in the highest' but for now: **We wait**

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain made low but for now: **We wait**

But we are not as those who wait in vain: We wait in hope, in peace, in joy and in love.

**Hymn of Praise GTG 123 (please rise)      It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

## Invitation to Reconciliation

*It is Advent — the time to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, the bringer of all peace. Just as we sweep our homes to prepare, so let us also sweep away all that separate us from God and one another.*

## Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Holy God, sometimes we are not prepared! Not prepared to receive your holy Son, not prepared to forgive or to be forgiven, not prepared to reach out, not prepared to heed your call. Though we sing, there remain heavy places in our hearts and all the glitter and sparkly lights cannot drive away our darkest fears. Forgive us and heal us. Help us to mend our broken relationships and broken feelings. Help us to remember you created us, sent your Son in love and continue to abide with us in Spirit. Amen.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! The Lord has come and is coming again. Let the peace of God into your hearts and thoughts. Be strengthened by God's incredible love for us. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

Gracious God, your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts, that we might be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting so that we do not miss the glory of your appearing. Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.

## Scripture Lesson

*Matthew 1:18-25*

Come, Holy Spirit *(silence is kept for reflection)* This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Anthem

*Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night*

## Scripture Lessons

*Matthew 1:18-25 and Isaiah 7:10-16*

Come, Holy Spirit *(silence is kept for reflection)* This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Is God as Impatient as We Are?**

## An Advent Credo

The Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak

It is not true that this world and its people are doomed to die and be lost -

**This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**

John 3:16

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction -

**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.**

John 10:10

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever -

**This is true: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world -

**This is true: To me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo  
I am with you, even unto the end of the world.**

Matthew 28:18, 20

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets  
of the Church, before we can do anything -

**This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters  
shall prophesy, your young shall see visions, and your old shall have dreams. . .**

Joel 2:28/ Acts 2:17

It is not true that our dreams for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity,  
of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history -

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshippers  
shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth. . .**

John 4:23

So let us use this Advent to dream, let us use this Advent to prophesy; let us use this Advent  
to see visions of love, and peace and justice. Let us use this Advent to affirm with humility, with joy,  
with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ - the Life of the World.

**Hymn of Response GTG 110** (*please rise*)

*Love Has Come*

**Sharing Joys & Concerns**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we  
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**A Time of Offering & Dedication**

*Today we receive the Christmas Joy Offering, the PC(USA) Special Offering that helps provide assistance to  
current and retired church workers in their time of need and develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related  
racial ethnic schools and colleges.*

**Generous God, you give to us not so we might have more, but we might care for  
those who have so little; not so we might spend, but we might share. In the waiting  
of Advent, may we see the wanting, and use our resources to fill lives with hope,  
peace, joy, and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Doxology Hymn of Sending GTG 104** (*please rise*)

*O Lord, How shall I Meet You*

**God is Good—All the Time.      All the Time—God is Good.**

**Charge, Benediction & Postlude**

*Please join us for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall*

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*Liturgy for Lighting the Advent Candle* from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster  
John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced by permission. Copyright © 2007 by Brian Wren.

Printed as *An Advent Credo*, these words have often been quoted as an advent proclamation or advent credo and sometimes  
attributed to Father Daniel Berrigan 1921-2016). The words actually come from Dr. Boesak's address at the Sixth  
Assembly World Council of Churches held in Vancouver, Canada, July 24-August 10, 1983. The Theme of that  
Assembly was "Gathered for Life." The final paragraph, as shown, was a charge to the assembly to "use these two weeks  
to...".